



This is a digital copy of a book that was preserved for generations on library shelves before it was carefully scanned by Google as part of a project to make the world's books discoverable online.

It has survived long enough for the copyright to expire and the book to enter the public domain. A public domain book is one that was never subject to copyright or whose legal copyright term has expired. Whether a book is in the public domain may vary country to country. Public domain books are our gateways to the past, representing a wealth of history, culture and knowledge that's often difficult to discover.

Marks, notations and other marginalia present in the original volume will appear in this file - a reminder of this book's long journey from the publisher to a library and finally to you.

Usage guidelines

Google is proud to partner with libraries to digitize public domain materials and make them widely accessible. Public domain books belong to the public and we are merely their custodians. Nevertheless, this work is expensive, so in order to keep providing this resource, we have taken steps to prevent abuse by commercial parties, including placing technical restrictions on automated querying.

We also ask that you:

- + *Make non-commercial use of the files* We designed Google Book Search for use by individuals, and we request that you use these files for personal, non-commercial purposes.
- + *Refrain from automated querying* Do not send automated queries of any sort to Google's system: If you are conducting research on machine translation, optical character recognition or other areas where access to a large amount of text is helpful, please contact us. We encourage the use of public domain materials for these purposes and may be able to help.
- + *Maintain attribution* The Google "watermark" you see on each file is essential for informing people about this project and helping them find additional materials through Google Book Search. Please do not remove it.
- + *Keep it legal* Whatever your use, remember that you are responsible for ensuring that what you are doing is legal. Do not assume that just because we believe a book is in the public domain for users in the United States, that the work is also in the public domain for users in other countries. Whether a book is still in copyright varies from country to country, and we can't offer guidance on whether any specific use of any specific book is allowed. Please do not assume that a book's appearance in Google Book Search means it can be used in any manner anywhere in the world. Copyright infringement liability can be quite severe.

About Google Book Search

Google's mission is to organize the world's information and to make it universally accessible and useful. Google Book Search helps readers discover the world's books while helping authors and publishers reach new audiences. You can search through the full text of this book on the web at <http://books.google.com/>

A gold-embossed wreath of leaves and flowers, possibly roses and lilies, encircling the central text. The wreath is tied at the bottom with a ribbon.

MALTA
SIXTY
YEARS AGO.

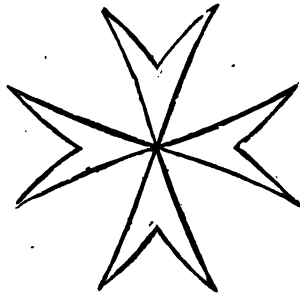


600006671Q

Sec 299







MALTA
"SIXTY YEARS AGO;"

ALSO

A SYNOPTICAL SKETCH OF
THE ORDER OF ST. JOHN OF JERUSALEM,
FROM ITS FIRST FORMATION TILL THE EVACUATION OF MALTA.

TO WHICH IS ANNEXED

A SHORT SKETCH OF THE CRUSADES,
AND A
CONCISE HISTORY OF THE KNIGHTS TEMPLAR.

BY CLAUDIUS SHAW,
(LATE COLONEL,) AND KNIGHT OF ST. JOHN, AND SAN FERNANDO OF SPAIN.

London:
SAMUEL TINSLEY,
10, SOUTHAMPTON STREET, STRAND.
1875.



P R E F A C E.

THE cranium of an elderly gentleman who has travelled a good deal, and seen something, may be compared to an old garret, or lumber room, where things have been stowed away and forgotten ; yet some time or other an article may be wanted, it is remembered that such a thing has been put away, and a hunt is made for it. It is found, and with it many other old things are brought forward, and though hitherto forgotten, may be considered useful.

Such was the case in the present instance ; I

knew all along that somewhere I had an old journal, diary, or rather a lot of old reminiscences, which I hunted up, and then found things that had quite escaped all recollection, as they had been written above forty years, and had not been seen or thought of for at least nine or ten. So feeling great interest in the Order of St. John of Jerusalem, and having been for some time stationed at Malta "Sixty Years Ago," I thought that I could make out a sketch of that Island which would throw some light upon its general history, and bring forward a few acts of the Order, showing what had been performed by them in former times, by stating what they had done in that Island, as well as in the Holy Land; and how they had, by their bravery, good conduct, and general knowledge, caused the Order to be so highly esteemed throughout Christendom, that even at the present day, after existing for near eight hundred years without a broken link in the

chain, kings, noblemen, and gentlemen of the highest stations, are proud of being admitted to join its ranks.

Some of the early pages may be thought puerile; but as they all occurred on the way to Malta, there may be some excuse for introducing them, as they show how things were carried on in those days.

The old historical part, or Synoptical Sketch, terminates at the evacuation of Malta, where only sufficient is given to show some of the principal characters and occurrences of that period, in a general and concise history of the whole.

There has also been added a slight sketch of the Crusades, as they were the primary cause of the formation of the different Orders of knighthood in the Holy Land. And though the Knights of the Temple were frequently at feud with those of the Hospital, yet as they fought bravely in the

good cause, it was considered that a few remarks about them would make the history more complete, and after some little trouble, sufficient matter for the purpose was collected.

CONTENTS.

MALTA SIXTY YEARS AGO.

CHAPTER I.

	Page
Voyage to Lisbon.—Bay of Biscay.—Tagus, &c.....	I

CHAPTER II.

Lisbon,—Crossing the Tagus in cork boots.—Arrive at Gibraltar.—Quarantine.—Turkish ship.—Garrison duty.—Alarm on guard.—Gone aloft.....	8
---	---

CHAPTER III.

Christmas Day.—British Fleet off Minorca.—Malta and Gozo.—Entrance to Malta harbour.—Bells.—Quarantine.—The Eagle (74).—Disappointment	15
--	----

CHAPTER IV.

Malta.—Fort St. Elmo.—Progress through Valetta.—	
--	--

	Page
Palace.—Armoury.—St. John's Church.—Strada Reale.	
—Tiffa sabeiah whisk.—Private houses.—Porto Reale.	
—General plan of the city.....	24

CHAPTER V.

Florian Parade.—Froberg's Levy—Mutiny and Execution.	
—Fortifications at Florian.—Fortifications on East side	
of the Great Harbour.—Marsa Mucetta Harbour.—	
Lazaretto.—Forts Manoel and Tigné.—Catacombs at	
Florian.—Aqueduct.....	34

CHAPTER VI.

St. Antonio.—Citta Vecchia.—St. Paul's Bay and Cave.—	
Great Catacombs.—Stone Mortars.—Boschetto.—Casals	
or Villages.—Fungus Rock.—Islands of Comino and	
Gozo.—Old Friars' Waterworks.....	44

CHAPTER VII.

Society in Malta.—Sailors on Horseback.—Battle of Lissa.	
—Arrival of the Fleet.—A very gallant and noble	
Lord.—The "Victorious" and "Rivoli."—Action be-	
tween them.—The Hotel de Provence.—Strange Escape	
of a Prisoner.—Scene in Sicily.—A Procession and the	
Plague.....	51

CHAPTER VIII.

Knights of Old.—Formation of the Order of Hôspitallers.	
—Notice of the Fortifications.—Dock-yard.—Hospi-	
tal.—General Character of the Knights.—The Old	
Knight at the Palace.—Adieu to Malta.	73

CONTENTS.

ix

Page

SYNOPTICAL SKETCH OF THE ORDER OF ST. JOHN OF JERUSALEM, FROM ITS COMMENCEMENT, A.D. 1399, TILL THE EVACUATION OF MALTA, A.D. 1798	83
--	----

CRUSADES.....	134
---------------	-----

KNIGHTS TEMPLAR, OR KNIGHTS OF THE TEMPLE OF JERUSALEM, A.D. 1119	142
--	-----



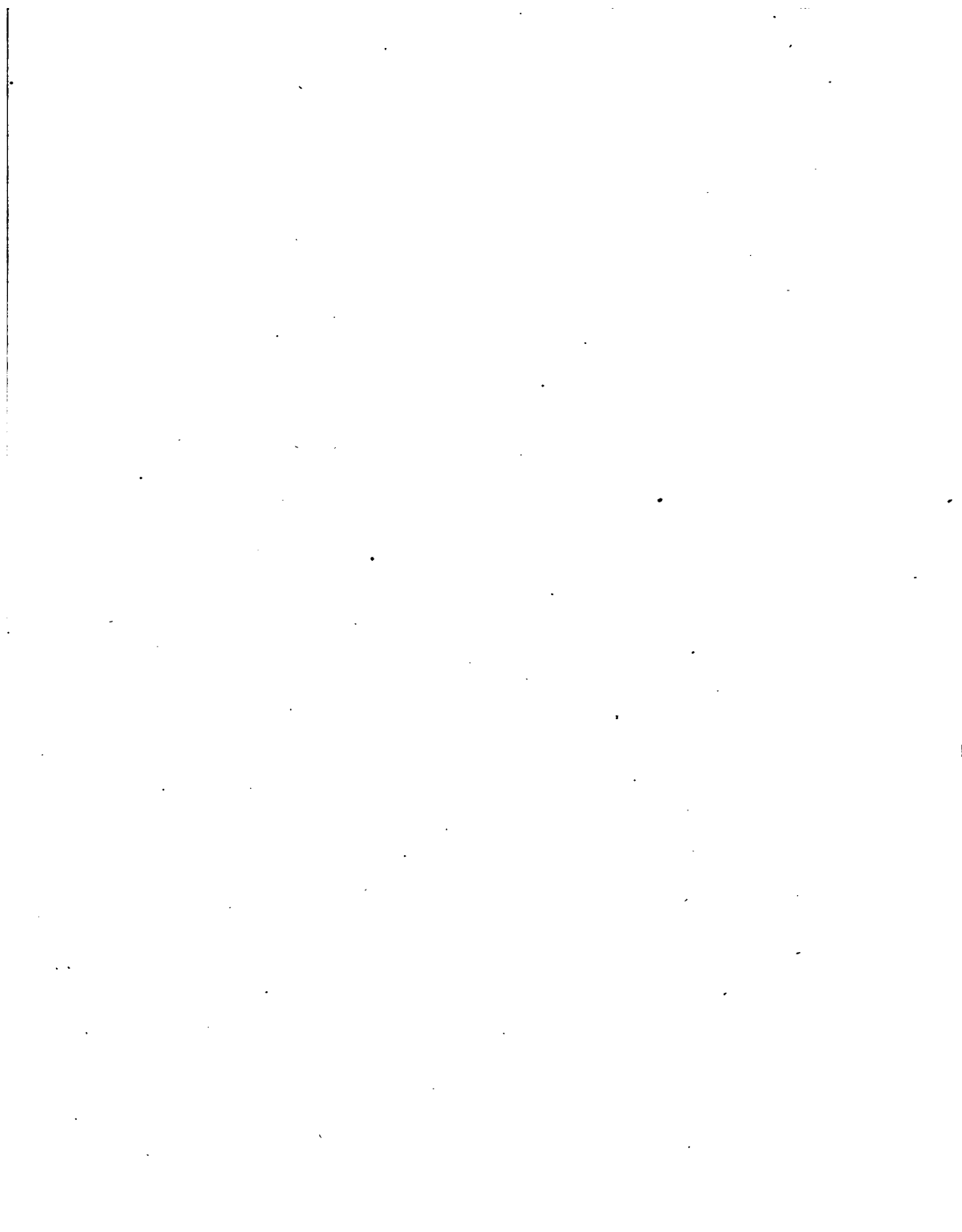
MALTA SIXTY YEARS AGO.

CHAPTER I.

Voyage to Lisbon.—Bay of Biscay.—Tagus, &c.

IN the month of August, 1810, a detachment of the Royal Artillery, consisting of one captain, three lieutenants, and thirty men, was ordered to embark at Woolwich for Malta. We dropt down the Thames on the 27th, and arrived at the Downs, where we were detained for some days by strong contrary winds, and only arrived at Spithead time enough to be too late for the convoy, which sailed two days before, so had to wait about three weeks till another was appointed.

We passed the Needles on Michaelmas day,



MAITA SIXTY YEARS AGO

ERRATA.

Page 9, line 4, for	"wisual,"	read	"visual."
" 11, ,, 3, ,,	"Nas,"	"	"Nad."
" 23, last line ,,	"tempor,"	"	"tempora."
" 32, ,, 5, ,,	"flirtable,"	"	"flirtation."
" 74, ,, 3, ,,	"articulos <i>mortuis</i> ,"	"	"mortis."
" 77, last line,,	"tavern,"	"	"Chancery of the order."

by strong contrary winds, and only arrived at Spithead time enough to be too late for the convoy, which sailed two days before, so had to wait about three weeks till another was appointed.

We passed the Needles on Michaelmas day,

just as the Commodore's bell struck eight, or twelve o'clock, noon.*

Everything went on prosperously for some days, and on the Sunday we had a sight of Cape Ortegal—we were in high spirits, and had the captain to dinner with us. In the evening, he said he feared a change of weather.

The next morning found his fears verified. The wind had risen, and with it the sea. I dressed, and got on deck as soon as possible; all hands were aloft shortening sail, and taking in as much as they could. Sails were flapping, ropes flying. Some few men on deck were running about, hauling here, letting go there, and “ever and anon” calling out, “all’s gone.” The captain had a speaking-trumpet, through which he kept calling them all lubbers; he was skipping about here and there; the little fat mate seemed to be helping him. Occasionally a few sick-look-

* That very day two years after the writer was as near as possible in the same place, at the same hour, on his way to Lisbon to join the Peninsular Army, after having been at Lisbon, Cadiz, Gibraltar, and Malta, and spending three weeks in London.

ing, white-faced soldiers would come in their way; they soon got their share of what was going on, and were ordered below.

The sea was rolling tremendously, the wind howling awfully, and the rain falling in torrents. We were one moment lifted up to the skies, the next sunk in a frightful abyss. Sick, wet, cold, and hungry, holding on by a rope for dear life, I stood, or rather swung, hardly able to keep my feet, all that morning. It was an awful sight to see the other ships of the fleet. At one time, we could almost see their keels, at another, they would be out of sight, so that we often thought that they had sunk altogether.

About noon the wind and rain abated a little, we ventured to ask the captain what he thought of the weather. He said it blew rather fresh, and advised us to get some breakfast. That was impossible : the servants were all sick, the cabin in a perfect uproar, all our trunks and boxes running about, having broken from their fastenings. A hamper of potatoes had got loose, and emptied itself into the lower berth, occupied by the cap-

tain's wife's servant. She was, though not quite dead, completely buried in potatoes, which, with many other small things which had found their way into her berth—a lower one on the leeward side.

We contrived during this lull to get a few potatoes cooked, and with some biscuits, brandy, and porter, made our day's meal. The captain recommended a little fat pork, but his offer was declined.

In the afternoon, about three or four o'clock, the wind arose again as fresh as ever. We were laying under a close reefed fore topsail, which all at once split into ribbands; another and another were bent, the first shared the fate of its predecessor.

The captain was again swearing through his trumpet, the little mate as active as ever. One man who was out on the bowsprit was dipt completely under, an immense sea washed over the deck, no part of which could be seen for some seconds. We rose over the next high wave, the captain looked round at us, and said, "Thank

God !" The man who was on the bowsprit was saved.

We had hardly got over this, when we heard most dreadful cries from the cabin. We went down instantly, and found everything floating, the sea having entered at the windows. The carpenter was getting up the dead lights. The lady screaming for her child, that she thought had been washed away, as she could not see it anywhere. An officer who happened to be in the cabin caught it as it was falling from the table, and laid it in an upper berth. All our beds were wet. The poor servant had her share of the water to add to her other comforts.

This gale commenced on the Monday morning, and did not abate much till the next Sunday. It was a very fine day; we got our things dried, and had a capital dinner, which we enjoyed much. We saw Cape Ortegal, laughed at the wind, and thought our troubles were over. But we reckoned without our host, for on Monday it blew as fresh as ever, and staid, no welcome guest, for another week. The next Sunday was fine again,

and the captain got an observation which he had not done for a week. He called us up, and said he had something to tell, which he was sure would give us pleasure. It was, "That we were thirty miles nearer our friends in England than we were two Sundays before." But he hoped as the wind was changed, that we should pass Cape Ortegal soon, which we did next day, after spending about three weeks altogether in

"The Bay of Biscay, O!"

Having lost our commodore during the late gales, it was determined that we should go to Lisbon, especially as we only saw three or four ships out of forty-seven that had sailed with us from Spithead. We took in a pilot off the mouth of the Tagus.

Our run down from Cape Ortegal was very pleasant, as we kept close to the land, saw the Barlings, most remarkable rocks, and the beautiful coast along by Cintra and parts of Portugal. We, having passed the Bougie Fort, and St. Julian's, anchored off Belem Castle late in the evening; so

we had to postpone our trip on shore till morning.

It is about one of the happiest hours of a man's life when, like us, after a long and tempestuous voyage, to be anchored in smooth water. All seems so steady and quiet, and every person in such good humour. One gets a good supper, with additions of fresh bread, sweet water, milk, and perhaps* some fruit and other luxuries from the shore. Little makes a luxury then, what a few days after one would turn his nose up at. But then, after supper is his bed, which he goes to pretty well assured to sleep the sleep that will know no waking till near breakfast time, and, before turning in, to be certain that—

“ The watch is set, and through the night,
He'll hear the seaman, with delight,
Proclaim—‘ All's well.’ ”

CHAPTER II.

Lisbon, crossing the Tagus in cork boots.—Arrive at Gibraltar.
—Quarantine.—Turkish ship.—Garrison duty.—Alarm on guard.—Gone aloft.

AFTER an early and good breakfast, we went on shore. Off we started on foot from Belem to Lisbon, between three and four miles, our captain, his lady, servant and child, another officer and myself; only the officer on duty remaining. Not one of us could speak a word of the language, but, after our long confinement on shipboard—

“Were all agog to dash through thick or thin.”

Off we went, heedless of beggars who beggar all description, dogs, donkeys, mules, horses, soldiers, old women, dirty children, dandy officers, stinking fish, frowsy friars, fine fruit, sausage pies, sardines

stewing in oil, bullock carts grating on the axle, enough to set Hotspur's teeth on edge, and a general concatenation of the vilest sights, smells, and noises that ever invaded the human visual, olfactory, or auricular nerves. We were on terra firma, and heeded them not, our sole object seeming to be to get over the ground.

At last, arriving in the Praça do Commercio, we espied Latour's Hotel. In we went, and ordered some fresh bread, ate plenty of fine grapes, and other good things.

The day was excessively warm. We were refreshed, and started for the Artillery Barracks, about two miles further. Luckily we met some officers of our acquaintance; one in the Portuguese service, from his knowledge of the town and language, did us essential service.

It was late when we got on board our ship again, but were nothing loth to visit Lisbon next day.

An affair occurred at Lisbon when the army was in the lines of Torres Vedras, which, though not exactly under our own observation, yet, as it

caused some fun and excitement, we may be excused from mentioning it.

General publicity was given throughout Lisbon, that on a certain day, at a certain hour, a British officer would walk across the Tagus, opposite Belem Castle, in cork boots.

The excitement was very great—there had not been the like since the earthquake. Everybody spoke of it ; little else was thought of ; all sorts of conveyances were put into requisition ; those who had carriages used them, those that had not, hired. Horses, mules, donkeys, even bullocks with their carts were called in. Boats could not be hired for love or money, all being engaged on this service. Everybody, the world and his wife and all, were on the ground at the appointed hour. There seemed to be some delay. At last a placard was hung out from the castle, saying that an accident had happened to one of the boots, and that the passage must be postponed to another day.

When the hoax was discovered, the indignation was great. A deputation waited on the general. He could not help smiling, and said it was only

the trick of some idle boys, and was all a humbug. The deputation, very wroth, replied—" *Si, senhor, ma, os Portugueses nas quieren humbug,*" * and took their departure, "exit in a rage."

At this time the army was in the celebrated lines of Torres Vedras, about eight miles from Lisbon. We saw some little skirmishing between the outposts, which pleased us much ; but it was not our good fortune to remain, and, after a rest of about ten days, we were obliged to sail again.

We touched at Cadiz, but did not go ashore, and proceeded direct for Gibraltar. We had hardly got there when we were boarded by a boat from our old commodore, with, "where the devil have you been all this time?" from the lieutenant in command. We were informed that many of our comrades had perished in the gale, and several others could not be accounted for, supposed to have been taken by French privateers who were generally hovering about.

We were placed under quarantine for a week,

* Yes, sir, but the Portuguese don't like humbug.

with leave to row about where we pleased, provided we showed a yellow flag, and had particular orders not to go too near a certain Turkish vessel, as she had the plague on board. Most of her crew had died, and some of the others going off every day. We paid particular attention to this vessel, with our telescopes. The first time we saw six men in turbans seated on the companion, next day there were three, at last there was only one, and a day or two after we did not see any. We were released from our confinement, and went on shore. We heard afterwards that the old ship had been burnt, as nobody dared to go near her.

We were put on garrison duty, a thing rather uncommon for birds of passage, but a general court martial was sitting, which required the attendance of so many officers, that they were glad to get us. We found the duty very severe—one night of picquet, the next on guard, one night in bed at home, the two following on picquet and guard again. This was rather hard work, but we were told it would not last long. However, we had about three weeks of it, when we were

glad to get on board again for our ultimate destination.

Gibraltar is a place of such importance, and so well known, that it is not necessary to make any particular remarks; indeed our extra duty was so severe that we were not much inclined to go to the top of the Rock, or visit St. Michael's Cave, or many others of the wonders and beauties of the Rock. The Moorish Castle and the Galleries were the extent of my peregrinations. Yet one ridiculous affair may be related.

The French troops occupied St. Roque and the surrounding country. One evening about dusk, when I was on guard on the Flagstaff Battery, the sentry reported that he saw something like a body of men moving on the far end of the neutral ground. I could see dust, and certainly some sort of body in motion, but it got too dark to distinguish.

I reported to the captain of the guard on the Landport Gate, who told me to keep a sharp look out. Soon after we saw them lighting fires. I reported again, and he sent off a man to the field

officer of the day. He was not long before he came, and then went to report to the general, who ordered two regiments to be ready at a moment's notice. The guards upon the eastward lines were doubled, and every preliminary measure of precaution was made to give a warm reception.

Before daylight a general and his staff were at my guard. When it got lighter some movement was observed, and he was thinking about giving me orders to fire the alarm guns. Just at that moment a man from the commissariat office came up to enquire if we had seen anything of a lot of oxen that were expected for the use of the garrison.

A convoy being ready to *go aloft*, we were happy at the relief. A convoy *going aloft* sounds strange, but is a common saying at Gibraltar, for going up the Mediterranean is always called "going aloft," no matter what part; but once a person gets through the straits, past the Rock, he has "*gone aloft*."

CHAPTER III.

Christmas Day.—British Fleet off Minorca.—Malta and Gozo.
—Entrance to Malta harbour.—Bells.—Quarantine.—The
Eagle (74).—Disappointment.

A FEW days before Christmas we embarked for our "voyage aloft," and on Christmas Day we ate a capital plum pudding, which had taken us some days to manufacture, and was duly washed down, with some good port wine to the health of our friends in England.

The following day we were off Minorca, we were so near that we could see the people walking on the shore ; but what added much to the beauty of the scene, was the presence of the British Fleet, going into Port Mahon. There were several three-

deckers, who passed close to us, it was a grand sight to see the great machines gliding through the water; one of them passed near to us, we went just under its stern. One can hardly imagine that the ingenuity of man had framed such an immense thing to float upon the water. Her ports were all open, and "she shewed her teeth bravely." What appeared very strange that though we were quite near to her, we heard no noise, not even the sound of the human voice. All at once, there was a shrill whistle, then a little scuffling of feet, and the decks were covered with men; some gentleman, with a very gruff voice, said something; in an instant all the men were literally "going aloft," the rigging was covered with them. Then Mr. Vox Gruffenough said something more, the sails, were most of them taken in, and furled. Another whistle and the men were down below, and as quiet as if nothing had happened.

In due time we made the island of Gozo, and as we ran along we had a good opportunity of seeing it, and Malta. There is nothing very striking in the appearance of either, it being like a barren rock,

with the exception of a few fig and locust trees peeping over the high stone walls which surround the small enclosures, scarcely worthy of the name of fields.

The entrance to the harbour of Malta is narrow, not much more than 400 yards across. There is plenty of water everywhere, and vessels under the tonnage of a seventy-four can pass through, except over one small rock, which is marked with a buoy, as it would impede the passage of larger vessels, but they have plenty of room to pass it. On the right in entering is Fort St. Elmo,* with its high cavalier and light-house; in the salient angle is the grave of Sir Ralph Abercrombie, and in the adjoining one, that of Sir Alexander Ball. These bastions bear their names. The Abercrombie bastion was altered lately (1871) to place one of the new class of guns; his coffin was seen, and found in good condition, little the worse for

* It is supposed that St. Elmo was the patron saint for harbour masters. As there are so many forts of that name, always at the mouth of harbours. Here, Messina, Corfu, and even at St. Sebastian, in Spain.

being about seventy years buried. This fort was also celebrated for the resistance made by the Knights Hospitallers of St. John of Jerusalem, when besieged by the Turks, about the year 1557, when La Valette was Grand Master of the Order.

On the opposite side is Fort Ricasoli. It is completely commanded by St. Elmo, and many of the works of the town ; it is strong on the land side, and commands the sea coast and country for a considerable distance.

Immediately opposite the entrance, is the formidable battery of Fort St. Angelo, with four tiers of guns, pointing directly up to the entrance ; one battery is on the water's edge, with three others immediately above it, altogether about forty guns could be mounted at this point. Any ship having the audacity to try to force an entrance, would be likely to get a warm reception, red hot shot included.

On the left between Forts Ricasoli and St. Angelo, is the Renella bay. The only one in the Island which shoals its water ; in every other

there is sufficient to float the largest ships close to the water's edge.*

Passing the bluff point of the Lower Barracca, is the Marina, or Quay, where all the boats land, and there is plenty of bustle.

Turning up by St. Angelo there is another harbour which runs a long way up to the dock yard, and Old City (Victorioso). Going on the old course from the first entrance, is another formidable fort, then another harbour, and the last after that, chiefly occupied by merchant vessels. In this you seem to be completely land-locked, and commanded by the saluting battery, and the works of Florian.

We were not long in getting to this harbour where we brought up, after having been put in quarantine for a week. It was by this time dark, and we were nothing loth to go to supper. Being in high spirits, we soon returned on deck, to see what could be seen, but could not distin-

* Near this is Bichi, a house which Napoleon Bonaparte occupied when in the Island, A.D. 1798. It was afterwards used as a Naval Hospital.

guish much beyond the lights in the town and ships.

ALL AT ONCE our ears were assailed with a most tremendous clatter. It was some time before we could rightly understand the meaning of such a din on every side. We were informed, that it was customary to ring all the bells in the Island every fourth hour ; as soon as the great bell of St. John's commences, all the other churches set up ringing. There are upwards of fifty in Valetta alone. The bells are struck with hammers, ropes are not used.

I was told once by a young Maltese gentleman, that it was the duty of the priests to do this service, but if a young man went to confession, he was often told to ring a certain bell for so many days, especially at four a.m., for penance, and they thought the harder they rung, the better it was for their souls.

During the time we were in quarantine, we were frequently visited by the officers, and amused ourselves by pulling about the harbour in the ship's boat, with a yellow flag flying. In one of these excursions we went up towards the dock-

yard, where we saw the Eagle (74) hove down to have her copper repaired and cleaned ; she righted herself at the first attempt ; owing to some of the tackle being defective, it broke, and carried a twenty-four pounder-gun, which had been built into the dock, right up to her mast head, which was made fast to it. She made, as may be imagined, no small splash when she righted, and rolled for some time, agitating the water all round, so that the people in the other harbours at a distance, could not imagine what had happened, and thought it was some great convulsion of nature. It is very extraordinary that, though there were hundreds of people round, only one marine had his leg broken. They succeeded a day or two after. It was a beautiful sight to see the great hulk in such a position ; and the sun shining on the copper had a good effect.

Our week's quarantine was about to expire. Orders came from the shore for disembarkation at eight o'clock, when boats would be ready. We had invitations to breakfast on shore, and were all in high glee, and ready by six. The men were all

nice and clean, their knapsacks arranged along the deck. Seven o'clock struck—" *well, one hour more.*" Eight o'clock struck on every side—*no appearance of boats!* Nine o'clock—NO BOATS!! Ten o'clock—NO BOATS!!!

We were beginning to get impatient. At last a man from the quarantine office came on board, and told us that the Board of Health was sitting, and we should get our answer by twelve o'clock. It came round in due time, and we were told, that as we had taken some clothing in at Gibraltar for one of the regiments at Malta, the Board had decided that we were to have another week's quarantine.

This did not mend our good humour, but we had nothing for it but to put on our old clothes, have some breakfast, and go below to get smoked.

The man from the office had brought some things with him. We were, all hands, men, women, and children, soldiers and sailors, ordered down into the hold, when the hatches were closed. Then our friend from the shore took a match, and ignited certain ingredients, which soon began to smoke, and every chink and corner was filled; one

of the children going into fits, and all of us half suffocated. We made a rush, got upon deck, and were kept coughing and sneezing all the evening. I never wish to be disinfected again.

The governor, having the power to grant two days' grace, where there was no disease, we got the benefit of it, and disembarked with much pleasure.

These few remarks will serve to show how differently the movement of troops was carried out "Sixty years ago." There were few troop ships, but generally merchant vessels hired for the occasion, frequently old colliers, void of everything like comfortable accommodation ; often only some rough boards knocked up against the ship's side for berths, no place but the ship's coppers for cooking in, we had to lay in all our own stock, and look after it too, when it was laid in—the captains mostly rough, uncouth and sometimes uncivil characters. See how the troops were conveyed to Walcheren, and after the retreat from Corunna, &c., &c. Now there are steamers, replete with every comfort. "Tempor mutantur," and for the better too.

CHAPTER IV.

Malta.—Fort St. Elmo.—Progress through Valetta.—Palace.—Armoury.—St. John's Church.—Strada Reale.—Tifla sabeiah whisk.—Private houses.—Porto Reale.—General plan of the city.

“And now, O Malta, since thou hast got us,
Thou little military hothouse,
I will not be uncivil,
And rudely wish you at the Devil,
But pop my head out of the casement,
And merely ask what such a place meant?”

Byron.

AFTER going through the usual routine of joining a large garrison, we proceeded “to see the lions.” Being quartered in Fort St. Elmo, which was stated above as being the extreme point of the tongue of rock on which the city of Valetta stands, we shall proceed from thence.

Fort St. Elmo of itself holds a great place in

history, not only of Malta, but of the world in general, as it sustained one of the most bloody sieges on record. It was assailed by thousands of Turks, and defended by only a small number of the Knights of St. John. They repulsed, with great loss, the first attack, and sent to head-quarters for a reinforcement; but they were told they could not get any, as there was none to spare, being all required where they were, but that "*every man must die at his post.*" The Turks, observing that communication could be kept up with the opposite side of the harbour, established a battery on the shore above St. Elmo, which completely prevented any reinforcement going over, or any assistance whatever.

The brave old knights still kept up the defence. The Turks tried another attack, but lost a great many men.

So determined were the gallant knights to die at their post, that some who had been wounded, caused themselves to be carried out from the chapel, where they had been conveyed the night before on account of their wounds, and placed, with

their swords in their hands, on the breach. High mass had been celebrated at daylight, and all determined to conquer or die at their post. The attack was made, and the enemy did not succeed as they expected, for some explosion took place among them which caused a check ; and **when they** did get in, there was nothing for them but dead men, the knights having obeyed their orders, in a literal sense.*

This siege took place during the Grand Mastership of the celebrated John de Valetta, the forty-seventh Grand Master, about the year 1527.

"Revenons a nos moutons." On leaving the Fort, we crossed the Granaries, which are deep pits, sunk in the rock, shaped something like the inside of a bottle ; they are perfectly dry, and hold a large quantity of grain. There are several of them, and show an instance of the cleverness and foresight of the founders of the city of La Valetta.

Leaving this, we proceeded up the hill in Strada Reale towards the Palace. It is very steep, but the

* See Vertot's "History of Malta."

foot sidings have steps, celebrated by Lord Byron in his "Farewell to Malta."

"Adieu, ye cursed streets of stairs,
Whoever mounts them surely swears."

There are about 130 of them, about 3 inches high each, and 18 inches to 24 on the top, too long to take in one step, and too short for two. The best way to go up is in a kind of canter, a hop and a skip. They often made me *almost* verify the above lines, when in a hurry of a hot day, and rather late for the guard mounting parade in front of the Palace.

The Palace is situated on the Grand Parade, just above these steps. The exterior is not very imposing except from its great size, it is built of the common freestone of the island, and is not regular in the disposition of its windows in front, but the inside amply compensates for the outside. The whole of the front and part of the side rooms were devoted for the reception of company; there are some good pictures and tapestry. On grand occasions, eight rooms used to be opened,

"en suite." The remainder was for the governor's private apartments, except the back ranges, which was the grand armoury, it contains several thousand stand of arms, with some curious old-fashioned weapons, and several suits of armour, which are well arranged, and have a good effect ; on entering, you seem to have got among a guard of men, in armour. There is one very beautiful suit, said to have belonged to La Valette, it is of bright polished steel, beautifully ornamented with gold. Near the palace is the library which belonged to the knights, the books were of rather ancient dates, even in those days, and there was also a museum, but the French had taken many articles from it.

Proceeding further up Strada Reale, is the church of St. John's. Like the palace, the exterior is not very imposing ; though it is the principal church in the island, it stands in a street crossing Strada Reale on the left hand. The interior amply compensates for the exterior. The pavement is mosaic ; the knights used to be buried there, and their armorial bearings, were laid down

in mosaic, and had a very beautiful appearance, forming one of the grandest specimens of that sort of work in the world. La Valette and other grand masters were buried in vaults, below the altar. There are several chapels or alcoves, on each side of the great aisle, which have also some good pictures, statues, busts, and mosaic, one piece of mosaic in particular is very fine, it was not hung in a very good light, and is often passed without much notice, being taken for a common painting, but viewed from a certain point the beauties of the mosaic are discovered. It is all in small squares, not above one tenth of an inch each, and has all the effect required by the various tints of the several squares. It is a most beautiful specimen of that art.

When the French were in possession, they took away a great deal of the silver plate, and other valuables belonging to this and every other church, as well as some very fine tapestry and pictures. The priests, however, contrived to save a good deal of the tapestry with which the church is decorated occasionally. The subjects are taken

from our Saviour's parables and miracles; they also saved a silver gate, which is at one of the chapels, near the altar, by painting it black; on the opposite side was one of brass, which they took away, thinking the silver one was of some baser metal, and not worth taking. It is now brightly polished, and was shewn to all visitors. Strange! that they should not fear exposing these valuables to *heretics*, and hide them from their own co-religionists.

A little further up the street is the Auberge de Provence, a very handsome building, it is now used as an hotel. The knights seemed to have understood their comforts, and had most convenient buildings; in every one was a large room, which, in such as were occupied by our troops as barracks, made an excellent mess room, most likely, the knights used them for the same purpose; there was also a smaller one adjoining, and several still smaller, which made excellent quarters for officers. To each of these were capacious buildings for the soldiers, some of them large enough to hold from 1000 to 1500 men, without

being crowded. The Auberge de Castille is a finer building than that of Provence, it is situated on rising ground upon the works, is airy, and has a good view, with plenty of accommodation for a strong regiment; the officers in a building by themselves, and the men in another, in the immediate vicinity, so that the officers and men were not too much mixed together; no doubt the knights understood discipline, and knew how to keep it up.

The Strada Reale is a fine broad street with good houses, but the appearance is much spoiled by the number of balconies, they have small windows cut out about four to six inches square, just under the larger window, where the ladies sit to work, and the sparkling eye of some "*Tifla sabeiah whisk*,"* may be seen as they sit at work, they can take a sly peep at pleasure, and shut it up again in an instant; but though the eye may sparkle through a hole, yet the owners, are not in general much of the *sabeiah*. They are rather dark, features not good, or their figures either; their dress

* "*Tifla sabeiah whisk*," (Maltese). "A very pretty girl."

is unbecoming, always black when in the streets, and they wear a kind of black scarf upon their heads, called a *Faldetta*, it has none of the grace of the Spanish *Mantilla*, but still they are used for *flirtable* purposes, as there is a piece of whalebone, which keeps it in one place on the head, a short length is held in the right hand, so that the wearer can cover her face in an instant, or only part of it at pleasure, looking very sly at the same time.

The private houses are about three or four storeys high, the principal family lives in the upper flat, and have access to the roof, which is terraced, and is a place of general resort of an evening when it gets cool. Below them is another family of more moderate means, on the ground floor on each side of the entrance, is often a shop, the keeper of which mostly occupies the rooms immediately above.

This street terminates at the Porto Reale, the first line of fortifications cross the narrow point on which the city is built, and the road leads out into the country by Florian. It is a good mile in

length from the granaries to Porto Reale, in a direct line, passing in front of the palace.

A general idea of the city may be formed by the following. Strada Reale is the chief, and leads from the Granaries straight up to Porto Reale, as has been already described. Strada Forni, Strada Stretta, are on the right hand, Strada Mercanti runs in the same direction, but comes in rear of the palace. All these are crossed at right angles by others. Strada Vescovo, and Strada Mezzo-di are the principal ones, besides Strada del Teatro, and Strada Brittanica.

CHAPTER V.

Florian Parade.—Froberg's Levy—Mutiny and Execution.—
Fortifications at Florian.—Fortifications on East side of the
Great Harbour.—Marsa Mucetta Harbour.—Lazaretto.—
Forts Manoel and Tigné.—Catacombs at Florian—Aqueduct.

At the end of Strada Reale, where we had arrived before visiting the Auberge de Castile, we come to Porto Reale, which is the only outlet to the country from Valetta.

The road passes through a curtain, in the bastions of which are cavaliers, that have an extensive command over the works of Florian. The works here cross the point of land on which Valetta stands, reaching from the Marsa Mucetta harbour on one side, to the Grand harbour on the

other, enclosing the city in a strong enceinte of fortifications. This gate has got a strong ravelin in front, capable of having guns mounted upon it as a "Couvre-port;" pass this, and you get upon the Florian Parade, which is extensive enough to manœuvre five or six regiments on. The Botanical Gardens form one side of it, and the fortifications joining La Valetta works, with those of Florian, the other.

One thing for which this parade is remarkable, is a horrible execution which took place there about two years before the writer of this article went out, but it was so well authenticated by so many eye witnesses, and even assistants in the *massacre*, as it may be fairly called, that though not fond of stating things unfavourable to the British, yet it was so very extraordinary, that it would be wrong to omit what at this time would be considered improbable, at the least. It is the execution of the unfortunate ringleaders in the mutiny of Froberg's Levy of Greeks.

These poor fellows were enlisted by one Froberg and his agents, who offered to raise a regi-

ment of Greeks for the British service. He, of course, was to have been the colonel, and his agents officers under him.

All this was fair enough, had the method of recruiting been equally so ; but they deceived the recruits shamefully, by telling one man that he should be a captain, another a sergeant, and making promises which they knew could never be fulfilled. These poor creatures were finally brought over to Malta, and stationed in Fort Ricasoli, where they soon found out the deceit, as they were all put into the ranks as private soldiers. This they obeyed cheerfully for some time, but at last, the severe duty and constant drill, with the ill-usage of the adjutant, who used to cane them, pull their beards and moustaches, &c., was no longer to be borne.

There was only a small detachment of one English regiment and about thirty artillery in the fort. The mutineers took advantage of the greatest part of these being over at Valetta drawing rations, to rise and seize the gate. The major who had been out shooting, and returning just at

this moment, was attacked. He discharged both barrels of his fowling-piece among them, but was soon overpowered, bayoneted, and left for dead, though he recovered. They next seized the adjutant, and literally cut him into pieces ; the different parts they threw down the wells. After that, they seized the officer of artillery, and got the keys of the magazine. Here they experienced some resistance, for the artilleryman on sentry would not desert, or give up his charge, but got into the narrow passage leading into the magazine, where he killed several of them with his sword ; but at last he fell nobly, by the discharge of several muskets.*

The other officers hid themselves. One of them dining with me some time after at Fort Ricasoli, said, " I know that chimney well." I asked what he meant, he said that being chased during the time of the mutiny, he got up it. Soon after some of them came in, made a fire and

* There was a very neat monument placed over his grave in the burying-ground at Ricasoli, by the officers and men of the detachment.

commenced cooking, but the chimney would not draw, so they took the fire out and went elsewhere. His position was not a very enviable one ; he could not come down, and dared not put his head out at the top, lest he should be seen, nor yet come down, as he would certainly be caught. When night came on and all was quiet, he managed to escape.

They took the officer of artillery and made him lay the guns against the town, but he so managed it, that the shot fell harmless into the Marsa Mucetta harbour, on the other side of the city.

After three or four days their provisions were expended, and the magazine having been blown up, they were obliged to surrender to the troops who had come from the garrison to besiege them.

The consequence of this was a court-martial, by which thirty of them were condemned to death, and the Florian Parade was the place appointed for the execution. Fifteen were to be hanged, and fifteen shot. Only five could be hanged at one time. The first five were suspended by the five who were next, and they,

when their time came, by the last five. These again by a party of those who were to be shot, till all fifteen had suffered hanging.

The remainder who were to be shot were formed into groups, and parties sent to fire at them. Some fell dead at the first discharge, others were wounded, and had to be shot at again. Some were not touched, and ran off; one man succeeded in getting to the parapet and jumped over, when he broke his leg, and was shot dead where he fell. It is said that one got among the crowd of spectators and escaped.

It is not the province of a soldier to make remarks on what is done, or ordered by his superiors; but that such a scene should be enacted in the British army in the nineteenth century is rather extraordinary. If such a thing was to be done now-a-days, would not the editors of newspapers, reporters, and the whole of the Press gang be down upon it?

On one side of the Florian Parade is the road leading to the village of that name, where there is another line of fortification, joining the heads of

the two harbours, parallel to the walls of Valetta, above a mile distant; these last works are very strong: there is a horn work, upon which again is constructed a crown work; they are altogether very interesting to a military man. These two last-mentioned works, are upon a piece of rising ground which would otherwise command the whole. The road past here leads direct from Fort St. Elmo, into the country, above three miles.

On the east side of the great harbour, near the dockyard is the old city (or burgh) of Victorioso, now a place of small repute and mostly occupied by the lower classes: it was, before Valetta was built, the residence of the grand master. It was near here, at La Sanglia, that the Turks made a grand attack, at the same time as that at St. Elmo, previously noticed. The Cottonera lines join this to the works near St. Angelo: they are very extensive, almost too much so.

They bear the name of two grand masters, brothers, who held that situation about the years 1660 to 1679. If the grand masters had continued in power much longer, it is probable that

the whole island would have been all one fortification, as most of them thought it incumbent on them to make some addition, and often gave their own names to them—La Sangle is one of them.

On the west side of Valetta is the Marsa Mucetta harbour, the entrance to which is between Fort St. Elmo on the east, and Fort Tigné on the west side—with Fort Manoel higher up the bay, so as to have a full front command of the entrance.

Fort Tigné is on the point, and the ground round it is mined in the most effective and correct manner, so that any force landing there could be blown up in an instant.

The Lazaretto is upon a small island, the same on which Fort Manoel is built. Fort Manoel is a correct square and has excellent accommodation for 1000 men. These two works, especially Tigné, serve to corroborate what may be said about the ability of the knights as engineers, most of them having been constructed under their supervision. There was a very trifling fort in the great harbour when the Order got possession of the island after

leaving Rhodes under Villiers l'Isle Adam—about 1527—the forty-third grand master.

We must not, however, leave Florian without noticing some extraordinary catacombs, belonging to a Capuchin convent in this neighbourhood, where the bodies of the friars were placed after death. They were embalmed, and placed upright with their clothes on the same as when alive; some had been there for many years and had fallen into decay; of some, the bones had separated—in others, the flesh was beginning to drop off; some again are quite fresh. We here see death in all its stages of decay, which, added to the gloomy appearance of the buildings, contrasted with the gay dress of the officers, my companions, had an effect upon my mind, though in those days not much given to moralize, that could not be easily overcome.

The view of the country from the crown work is, perhaps, one of the best in the island—though there is little to be seen but stone walls, yet the occasional views of the great aqueduct for supplying the city with water, from a distance of

about eight miles, on arches, is rather an uncommon sight, and is still further demonstrative of the skill of the old knights as engineers, civil as well as military.

CHAPTER VI.

St. Antonio.—Citta Vecchia.—St. Paul's Bay and Cave.—Great Catacombs.—Stone Mortars.—Boschetto.—Casals or Villages.—Fungus Rock.—Islands of Comino and Gozo.—Old Friars' Waterworks.

IN making an excursion round the island, the first object for notice after passing the horn and crown works, is St. Antonio, the country residence of the governor in summer. The house is not very good, but the gardens are extensive, laid out in the old style—straight walks, with fountains at the principal crossings. On gala evenings, when the general used to give parties, these fountains were illuminated by placing small lamps under the jets, so that the water dashed over at some distance

without extinguishing them, and the various beautiful tints they gave had a pleasing effect. One of the regimental bands, at least, attended ; then there was dancing on the terrace, a slight refreshment, and a pleasant drive home afterwards.

The next place "en route" is Civita Vecchia, the old city, or "Citta Notabile," as it is often called. There are some well-built houses in it, but the old respectable inhabitants have mostly left for Valetta, and few but the poorer remain.

The church is a fine old building. The priest who showed it said that the French had taken away eight waggon loads of silver and other valuables ; he pointed to four candelabra in particular, now made of wood silvered over, which he said were exact copies of those of silver taken away. I could just put my hand to the top, as I stood close by them : they must have been six feet high, and were massive in proportion.

It is satisfactory to think that the sacrilegious robbers derived no advantage from their plunder, as it now lies at the bottom of the sea where the battle of Aboukir was fought, when the French

ship that had it on board was either sunk or blown up by the British fleet in that action.

Not far from this is St. Paul's Bay, where the saint was shipwrecked : a small chapel is erected over where the cave is, and a good statue of marble, with the viper on its hand, is shewn.

The priest who shows it, recommends you to take away a piece of the stone of the cave, as a specific against shipwreck ; he said, "*Take away as much as you please you will not diminish the cave.*"—I said, "*I think not*"—he smiled and turned away.

At St. Paul's Bay there is a fort, or battery of pretty considerable extent mounting several guns, and along the coast, nearly all round the bay, are some rather primitive sort of mortars ; they are cut out of the solid rock—are about three feet in diameter, standing, or rather bored, at an angle of 45°. They are meant to throw a quantity of stones upon any boats that might attempt to land troops. They have a strong wooden bottom which lies between the charge of powder and the stones ; when fired the stones go a considerable height,

and, scattering in their descent, must be very formidable to boats. They never have been tried. St. Paul's Bay is the only place where an enemy could land along the whole coast of the island.

There are, or were, similar *Pieces of Ordnance* along the shores of the Dardenelles.

Our next visit was to the great catacombs which may be considered the greatest wonder of the island. They were constructed by the natives as hiding-places from the Turks; they extend to a great distance under ground, being divided into different apartments and streets. Sleeping places were cut out, of different dimensions: altogether they form a large subterranean town; at certain points being ovens, cooking-places, &c., &c. Only a small part is shown now, as there is some danger of being lost, if any one strayed too far; so stragglers are prevented by part being built up—yet sufficient is left to give a good idea.

Almost exactly in the centre of the islands is the Boschetto, the only place that is like a grove: there is also a capital spring in it, the water of which is conveyed to Valetta by the aqueduct

formerly mentioned. It is extraordinary that in the very centre of this otherwise barren place, such a fine spring should be—for except this, there is no other in the island. All the rain-water is saved in tanks and cisterns for domestic purposes. Should the periodical rains fail, there would be great distress.

There are several villages, or casals as they are usually called, throughout the island, but they are poor, miserable places, and afford the visitor no reward for the trouble of going to them.

One object of curiosity on the south side of the island, is a rock, on which grows a kind of fungus, which is used as a styptic. The passage to this rock is rather curious, if not dangerous; two ropes are made fast on each shore, on which a box with grooves on its edges, passes over. A Maltese first works his way across, then the person desirous to go over draws the box back and seats himself in it, when he is hauled over by the guide; in this manner as many as please can go, one at a time. It is not a very pleasant sensation to be suspended some hundred feet above the water,

and if there is any wind, the movement of the box is anything but agreeable, and all that can be obtained are a few pieces of FUNGUS ! I was well pleased to be back again, and made a determination never to risk my precious carcase in that conveyance again. It seems very strange to be swinging up in the air between two rocks, with sea gulls and other aquatics flying about below you.

The small and almost barren Island of Comino lies in the straits between Malta and Gozo. It is said to have been the Island of Calypso, but it must have changed greatly since those days, or where the trees grew that Telemachus cut down to build his ship, and formed such beautiful bowers and arbours as we read of, could have found root, is a mystery, as there is not above three or four inches depth of soil in the Island. But time changes all things.

The Island of Gozo is very similar in appearance to Malta ; there is not anything particularly worth notice in it.

All along the coast, wherever there are any

bays or points, small forts are erected ; they are manned by some Maltese Militia Artillery.

The most amusing thing in Gozo was the exhibition of some water-works, by an old Capuchin Friar. He had made clay pipes and figures of all descriptions, as fountains ; some of them were very good, some very ridiculous. If the talent which this old man displayed and expended in such childish amusement, had been properly directed, it might have been of service to the world.

CHAPTER VII.

Society in Malta.—Sailors on Horseback.—Battle of Lissa.—
Arrival of the Fleet.—A very gallant and noble Lord.—
The “Victorious” and “Rivoli.”—Action between them.—
The Hotel de Provence.—Strange Escape of a Prisoner.—
Scene in Sicily.—A Procession and the Plague.

THERE was a good deal of friendly intercourse kept up between the merchants and military in the way of visiting, though they did not associate much with the natives, except some of the principal families. There were three regular conversations every week ; one at the palace, the others at private houses. Once invited, you were always expected to attend. They were very pleasant, there was so little formality after making your

bow, and then you were at liberty to do pretty much as you pleased : form your own party, and amuse yourself accordingly. There were several rooms opening en suite. In one, the elderly people used to get to their whist : in others, there would be a round table, music, sometimes dancing, etc., and in a sly corner, would frequently be a little "blind hookey," or some other such gambling game, though it was not permitted, and the Governor would have been very angry if it had been discovered ; but there were generally some scouts on the look-out, who gave notice of his approach.

One very fine young officer may date his ruin from these parties. His story is this : he began to play with only three dollars, no great sum, but fortune was favourable, and in a short time his pockets were literally filled. He went home, deposited a considerable sum, and returned to the table, which he again cleared. After making a second deposit at home, on his return, a merchant put down a cheque on the bank, telling the young officer " That it was weighty ;" he looked at it,

and said he would risk it. He won, and next day at the bank he received one hundred pounds. His winnings that night amounted to near three hundred pounds. From this period he became a professed gambler, and continued to have great success all that season. The next one he was not so fortunate, as he lost all this, and drew under several pretences upon his friends, but the *Governor* could not afford to be *Relieving Officer* any longer. At last, his bills were dishonoured, and for some other improper conduct, all brought on by this night's gambling, he was obliged to quit the service. So ended the career of a very fine young man, not above twenty-two years of age.

There used to be many very keen encounters among the ladies at the loo table. More than one Pam has been seen in the pack. I was generally a spectator, not being able to afford the loss of three or four dollars a night, which, against such very expert players, was very likely to be the case.

The Governor on state occasions gave very

grand balls, to which all the principal Maltese families were invited. There was no regular *sit down suppers*, but in a room adjoining that for dancing, was a long table laid out with plenty of good things to eat ; there these said Maltese used to regale in fine style. They had a custom among themselves of carrying away some of these good things, it being considered by them to be bad manners to leave anything for next day. On one of these occasions one of the old knights appeared, to whom some one gave near half a roast fowl, which he pocketed. I gave him a large slice of sponge cake, besides several smaller ones, so that his pockets were completely filled. He then had to go through the ball-room with a large piece of the sponge cake sticking out of one of them. Though many people laughed, the worthy old knight did not heed them, but went home "on his way rejoicing."

During the hot weather it was necessary to keep pretty much within doors through the day ; in the evening, it was customary to walk on the Parade in front of the palace, where one of the

bands played. Here ladies and families used to come, whom the officers generally joined, and spent the remainder of the evening with some of them, frequently on the terrace or top of the house, it being the coolest place. It was rather a curious sight, looking over the city at this hour, to see the different groups on the tops of their houses. Many families had established a code of signals, and used to communicate with each other.

A party of idle officers who had no engagements, were in the habit of assembling at a certain ice-house near the Palace. Few ladies were fond of passing that way as they were pretty sure of being remarked. It was called *Scandal Corner*, as many a tough story was told there. After a certain hour it got filled with red coats—God help the man in mufti, who might enter, as he was sure to be well quizzed, unless he was one of the privileged.

The Maltese gentlemen of those days, were a poor set—poor in pocket, and too lazy to work ; they lived, or rather smoked their way through the world in a stupid, indolent manner, smelling

of oil, tobacco, and garlic. But the present generation is much improved, as many well-educated and enterprising men have sprung up of late years.

The lower classes are a fine, active sort of men, capable of enduring great fatigue; they make good sailors, being brought up principally about the harbour and among boats. They can swim almost as soon as they can walk, as you often see the smallest *skikens** swimming about—many of those who gain their living about the marina have not any houses to sleep in; they are found at night during the summer months, sleeping on the stones in corners of the streets. In wet weather they get into the porches and stairs of the houses, they have not any beds or bedding.

Their food is almost as hard as their beds.

Going down the "Nix Mangiare"† steps (so called from the number of beggars always there) to the Marina, they are to be seen with a piece of coarse brown bread, into which they cut a hole, and fill it with oil; the more *gusto* or rancidity it

* Maltese for boy—skiken.

† "Nothing to eat."—Anglo-Maltese.

has, the better they like it ; they get a sardina or some other savoury article, and eat it with their bread as they dip it into the oil ; when the fish is finished, and the bread well saturated, they bite into it quickly, by which means they get well oiled from ear to ear. They next get a slice of watermelon, and eat, drink, and wash their faces at once, then lie down upon the pavement for their siesta. The streets of La Valette seem quite deserted during the heat of the day ; the people say that only dogs and Englishmen walk there at that time.

The language chiefly spoken is Italian. The Maltese is a kind of Arabic. They have also a third, which they call English, it is a strange mixture ; all Englishmen and all male animals they call "John," all females "Maryanne." In the market you may buy John fowls or Maryanne fowls. John horses and Maryanne horses are constantly for hire at the corner of Strada San Giovanni and Strada Reale.

These animals are often hired by sailors when they get on shore, but they do not ride very far, for

they are so trained that just before they get to Port Bomb they go very fast, but the moment they get there they stop suddenly, and Jack generally flies over their heads. No persuasion will get the horse through this gate, even if his rider does hold on. It is against orders for any sailor or soldier to pass this gate without special leave. The owner of the animal, who is not far off, catches and takes him back again, to be ready for another customer.

We had very splendid entertainments on different special occasions, especially after the victory gained by some of our frigates under the command of Captain Sir William Hoste, of the *Amphion*, off Lissa. We had but three frigates, the *Active*, Captain Gordon, the *Cerberus*, and the *Volage*, Captain Hornby; also some small brigs, not above two or three. The French had five frigates. We took three, sunk one, and the other, thinking discretion to be the better part of valour, *ran away*, got upon a rock, and sunk.

One Sunday evening we were on parade near Bastion Abercrombie—a regiment of the Line (14th) was on the bastion, also another (the

Sicilian) on the opposite side at Fort Ricasoli—when the ships and their prizes happened to come in. The bands were placed on the ramparts, and the men lined the walls, and welcomed them with cheers; the sailors manned the yards and returned the compliment. A great number of people, it being Sunday, were on the works and along the Marina; they took up the cheering, and all together there was a tremendous shouting. We could distinguish several officers who had been wounded, by their slings and bandages. It was quite accidental our being on parade at that time, and it no doubt added to the general effect of the scene.

Another curious affair connected with the navy occurred about this period.

A very gallant lord, a post captain in the navy, had sent in some small prizes to be condemned by the Court of Admiralty at Malta. But the decision not being approved of by his lordship, he made use of very strong language to the judge, who in consequence ordered that he should be put in prison for contempt of court. His lordship, on

leaving the court, which he had attended in full uniform, went to his lodgings, from which it was necessary to take him. But who was to do it? It appeared no trifle to make such a man prisoner, not only on account of his rank, but of his well known violent temper. The marshal of the court, a very quiet, respectable man, rather advanced in years, resigned sooner than do it. So another had to be appointed.

There happened to be a young man, who had not much business, and to whom three hundred pounds per annum was an object, who undertook it. He got a carriage, and was accompanied by some active intelligent men. He was introduced to the room where his lordship was seated, and in the most polite manner mentioned his business, and apologized to his lordship for his intrusion, who returned for answer, that duty, however disagreeable, must be done. The marshal then said that every arrangement had been made in the prison, as far as possible, for his lordship's comfort, and begged of him to go. But his lordship said he should not move one step, or get out of

his chair. After some more remonstrances he called up his men, and, as his Lordship would not rise from his seat, he was carried down stairs in it. At the door he was requested to step into the carriage, but he would not move; so he was put into it, chair and all, and driven off to the prison.

When they arrived at the door, the noble and gallant prisoner would not alight, saying, as they had brought him there, they must take him in—he would not stir. So they were obliged to carry him into the prison, and upstairs to the highest room in it, which had been prepared for him. Everything else went on pleasantly; visitors were admitted at the proper hours, and every accommodation given.

It happened that, after a few days, a fleet of merchant ships was to sail under convoy of a frigate for England. As usual, they began to move out slowly—there not being any tide at Malta; they were not pushed to a minute or so. The frigate moved out to the mouth of the harbour, and commenced firing guns to rouse up the

convoy. She seemed to be in a great hurry at first; we were wondering why she did not set all sail and go with them. It began to get dark, but still she lingered. A small boat was seen going out to her; we imagined she had left something, and was waiting for the boat, which was actually the case, for as soon as the boat got on board, she made all sail and departed.

The next morning when the marshal went to visit his prisoner, he found the bird had flown, the iron bars removed from the window, and a long rope hanging down from it to the street. It was no difficult matter to guess where the prisoner had gone, or the cause of the delay of the frigate.

We had another splendid naval affair about this time.

The artillery were at gun practice in Fort Ricasoli, when two lines of battle ships were seen approaching, one had a British flag flying over a French one. We reserved our fire for a short time, and when they came within a certain distance we fired, in saluting time, all well laid and shotted—not at the ships, but the target. It happened very

apropos, as we found afterwards, that it was the *Victorious* (74) which had captured the *Rivoli* (74) French ship, which had only left Venice a few hours, on her first trip, when she had the British flag flying over the French. It was a very severe fight, which lasted four hours in a calm, at very close quarters. The slaughter on board the French ship was very great, as a gun, the fourth from the stern, on the larboard side, burst soon after the action commenced; one large piece, or splinter, went forward along the deck, killing and wounding about forty men. The French at the commencement had three or four small brigs and gun boats: we had only one brig of ten guns, the *Weasel*, Captain Mitchel, who succeeded in driving them all off, and by means of her sweeps, laid across the bows of the *Rivoli*, and caused her great damage. The French Commodore used to say, that he did not strike to the *Victorious*, but to the "*Dem little Weasel*." I came home some time after in the same ship as this Commodore, who was a very pleasant gentleman-like person, spoke English well, as he had been a prisoner for four

years, and had not been exchanged many months before he was on his way back again ; he said, that he liked England very much, and had some very kind friends there whom he should be happy to see ; but he always shrugged up his shoulders, and said, " C'est la fortune de la guerre."

After each of these great victories, we had grand doings on shore. A dinner and ball at the palace, dinners at all the messes, a ball and supper by the merchants and inhabitants, all of which were duly returned by the navy. But as both affairs did not occur at the same time, there were two sets of these parties.

On a former occasion, mention was made of the grandeur and size of the different Auberges built by the knights. Some idea of the size of that of Provence may be formed, by stating, that at the entertainment given by the civilians, when every body that was eligible was invited throughout the Island, there was plenty of room for them all to dance, sup, play cards, and have all accommodation required, without any crowding, pushing, or striving.

Another very extraordinary case of escape occurred about this time, and as the scene* was laid within a few feet of my bed, without my having the slightest idea of it, it is worthy of notice from many points.

The Provost prison is in Fort St. Elmo, and the cells are only separated from the officers' quarters by a narrow passage about six or eight feet wide. They are cells constructed in one of the highest and strongest parapets in the Island, arched at the top, with double doors well ironed and bolted, and strong bars over each, the only places where light and air could be possibly admitted. The windows of the officers' quarters are also strongly ironed and guarded ; so that escape seemed next to impossible ; independent of sentries.

An unfortunate soldier, of the Sicilian Regiment, had deserted frequently, and been as often punished ; at last he was brought to a general court martial, and sentenced to be shot. Every thing was arranged. A priest had been to visit him, as late as possible



in the evening, and an early parade was ordered to witness the execution.

When the Provost Marshal went early in the morning to visit the prisoner, though the doors of the cell and the adjoining ones on each side were found properly fastened, there was no prisoner—he had escaped! On making a due examination, it was discovered that the cells, in former times, had internal communications with each other, they had been built up as strong as stone and lime could make them.

When the priest went away, he left a small iron crucifix, about six inches long; with this, the prisoner contrived to scrape out the mortar from under a large stone, at the top; it was arched, and about six to eight inches thick. When it was loosened, he laid his coat on the ground, so that he might not make any noise when he took it out. After removing a few more stones, the hole was large enough for him to get through, but when he did, he found the door fastened, as well as that of his own cell; so he had to commence his work all over again in order to get through

this wall also ; this he effected, and found the door of the next cell open. He was then able to get into the passage, but the walls were at least twenty feet high. He got to a corner, and by means of the bolts of the door of the cell, and the bars of the window, he succeeded in getting on the top. Here was another difficulty,—a sentry in his box. It happened at the time, that a regular Maltese shower was falling, and the sentry had taken shelter. The prisoner went on till he came to a very high gate, which he had to climb over ; he then came to an exceedingly high bridge across the ditch. It was too high for him to think of dropping from, so he had nothing for it, but to return to his cell, and cut his blanket, which he had left, into shreds. This he accomplished,—the rain falling in torrents,—the sentry in his box. He got over the gate again : he made one end of the rope fast at the top, and slid down it as far as he could, when he had to drop into the ditch. Here he was all so far safe ; the harbour passed at the end of the ditch, there only being a low wall there ; he then jumped into the water, and swam across the har-

bour, at least four or five hundred yards, before he could land on point Ricasoli. When he got across he did not stop, as his regiment was stationed in that fort. He made for the interior of the Island, and got among the peasantry, who received him kindly, and he remained with them for about six weeks.

I was awakened on the morning of his departure by the noise the Provost made under my window, who told me that I need not hurry for parade, as there was not anybody to be shot. However, I dressed, and went round with the officer from the next room to mine, who was similarly situated as to windows, and there saw all that has been described.

The prisoner did not escape quite so well as he imagined he had. Occasionally he came into the town to get provisions, etc. ; on one of these occasions, a sergeant of his regiment recognised and arrested him. Of course he was again in charge of the Provost, when he related the particulars mentioned above. He entirely exculpated the sentry of any negligence, as he said the rain was

so tremendous, that no person, except one in a similar situation to himself, would act otherwise. He was not executed, as the Governor was too kind and good-hearted a man to cause it to be done. He said, "The man had certainly saved his life, and he should have it." His sentence was commuted to transportation for life.

Some time before I left Malta, an occurrence took place at Messina, which, though it does not exactly belong to this work, yet it is worthy of notice, as it throws some light upon the public opinion of the time, and also gives a slight insight into the feeling of the Romish population.

One winter's night a terrific gale of wind passed over Sicily, and was most severe through the Straits of Messina; the town also felt it very much: windows were broken, many slight or exposed edifices were thrown down, and the streets covered with the debris. The oldest inhabitant of course never saw a heavier storm. Scylla and Charybdis were consulted, but they had no recollection of anything near so bad. When enquiry was made of old Etna, he merely gave a

few rumbling grunts, besides a puff or two of smoke, but made no further remark. It was observed that several images of saints, which stood at the corners of different streets, had been blown over, or damaged, and that one of the *Blessed Virgin*, though very much exposed, was not injured, *but was weeping*, and the tears trickling down her face!

This caused a great sensation among the inhabitants, who said it was all caused by having so many heretics—meaning British soldiers—in the town. This notion got wind, and the inhabitants were getting quite tumultuous, threatening to murder every Englishman they could get hold of.

It at last came to the Governor's ears. He sent for the head priest, and told him of it. His reverence shrugged up his shoulders, and said,—“What can I do?” The Governor pointed to the guns mounted on the citadel, showing him how many could be brought to bear upon the town, saying,—“Unless a stop is put to this tumult within two hours, these guns shall be turned upon the town, and open such a fire

that in an hour's time there will not be a habitable house left, besides the great number of people that will be killed and wounded."

The priest raised his shoulders again, and said he would try what he could do. The Governor said, "That he knew what *he* would do; and depend upon it he would keep his word."

His reverence then went to the church, and soon had a procession formed, which went in all due decorum to the weeping image, a ladder was placed, which he mounted, and opening the door, he, with great form, wiped off the tears with a fine napkin, and then said, "That the *Blessed Virgin* was pacified, and would not give any more trouble." It was discovered then that the tears were caused by some oil, which had been blown out of the lamp for illuminating the image; and certainly there was a very strong resemblance to tears, on the face of it.

A few weeks previous to my leaving Malta, there was a very grand procession, most of the clergy of the island attended; it was above a mile in length, every person carrying a large wax candle. There

was music, both vocal and instrumental. The procession was closed by a priest, bearing the Host under a canopy. He was a very old man and blind; he carried the *Holy Thing*, close to his face, and was supported by two priests holding him by the arms; it so happened that his foot slipped, and he let the Host fall to the ground, and what it was carried in was broken. This caused great excitement. I happened to be within a few yards, and saw it. Of course there were great doings among the priesthood, and all sorts of rumours were spread: among others, that some great calamity would befall the island before the year would be ended.

A great calamity did befall the island. For a few months after, the plague broke out, and a great many people died. It was the first time it ever visited Malta.

The troops were kept shut up in the forts as much as possible, and did not suffer so sadly as the inhabitants.

CHAPTER VIII.

Knights of Old.—Formation of the Order of Hospitallers.—
Notice of the Fortifications. — Dock-yard. — Hospital. —
General Character of the Knights.—The Old Knight at the
Palace.—Adieu to Malta.

PEOPLE of these degenerate days, when they hear an ancient knight spoken of, always imagine a warlike and quarrelsome individual, mounted on a horse as impetuous as himself, and always ready to splinter a lance on the slightest provocation. If anybody should refuse to acknowledge that his *Dulcinea* was not the most peerless dame in existence, he was immediately challenged to settle the dispute, *à l'outrance*, there and then. Even though they might, like the two who differed about a cer-

tain shield, if it was gold or silver, each maintaining his own theory, till, at last, when almost *in articulos mortuis*, after a severe fight, they found that each was right according to his own view, one side being silver, the other gold.

These worthies would scorn to sip wine as we do now, they always "quaffed a goblet;" they did not mount their horses, scrambling up by the stirrup, they always "vaulted into the saddle." Their war steeds were always either coal-black or milk-white, with flowing manes and tails.

It is said that the Knights Templars who were very much given to "quaff goblets," were of very dissolute habits, and prided themselves upon being rough and rude, seldom using water for washing, shaving, and such like purposes, but preferred being filthy and dirty in their persons, so that at last the proverb of "being drunk and dirty as a Templar" became quite common.

The band of men formed by the worthy and charitable merchants from Amalfi must have been very different characters; for the very object for which these generous men formed the nucleus of

the order of Hospitallers, would of necessity have required steady and sober men—at least they must have had some education—not altogether very common in those days, and have been of rather a superior class, whose duty was to tend the sick and alleviate misery and distress, wherever they found them. The motto "*Pro utilitate hominum*" was most applicable, as the suffering of the sick and wounded must have been dreadful.

It has often been a wonder to many how these armies subsisted. There was not any commissariat to supply provisions, no ambulance for sick or wounded ; it is very clear there was no Medical Department ; and last, though not least, there was not any " Board of Control " to manage everything, right or wrong, and occasionally to mismanage some things. We hear nothing of soldiers' pay, of course ; every man was his own paymaster, commissary, and every other department, as far as he was personally concerned. The native inhabitants must have supplied the wants of the soldiery, who of course took whatever they could find, and wasted more than they used. " Loot "

must have been the general custom of the times, which has not been altogether abolished in the present day ; any person, paying a visit to France, can get some information as to how matters were carried on, within a very short time back, (1870).

It is not intended here to give any detailed account of the proceedings of the Order during the Wars of the Crusades, as they are most fully related in Vertot's history, and others. Yet the chief points may be attended to. For instance, the Order dates its origin as a "Conventional Institute," A.D. 1099. Baldwin, King of Jerusalem, recognised and confirmed the Hospitaller brethren as a body of knights, in 1104. Fourteen years later, 1118, the rule and constitution of the Order was further settled ; and subsequently, in consequence of the numerous admissions of kings, princes, and nobles, from every part of Christendom, it was divided into eight branches, or Langues.

Names of Langues.	Titles of Chiefs of each Langue.
1. The Langue of Provence	Great Commander.
2. ————— of Auvergne	The Marshal.
3. ————— of France	The Hospitaller.
4. ————— of Italy	The Admiral.
5. ————— of Arragon	The Great Conservator.
6. ————— of England	The Turcopolier.
7. ————— of Germany	The Great Bailiff.
8. ————— of Castile	The Great Chancellor.

In the year 1101 it was introduced into England by Lord Jordan Briset, and the magnificent chapter house of St. John's, at Clerkenwell, was founded by him. Part of this magnificent building is still standing; it was much injured during the Wat Tyler riots, which occasioned a loss in specimens of art, collections of books, and varieties of value, which, even in that turbulent age, was a subject of national regret.

Part of this building is now perfect, especially the gateway; some coats of arms, decorating a room now used as a printer's workshop, and part of the crypt of the old church, are still in good repair. The whole of the gateway is now used as a tavern.

The advowson of the church has lately been purchased by Sir Edmund Anthony Harley Lechmere, Bart., the present chief secretary of the Order in England.

The Knights of St. John must have been men of superior education and intelligence, as witness the great works carried on by them in Rhodes and Malta. They must have been good architects, as the beauty of the buildings in both places testify. They must have had perfect knowledge of military engineering, which the accuracy of every point in the works of Malta bears ample testimony of. These works must have been constructed under great difficulties, the ditches being excavated from the solid rock, forming at once the bastions, and other works, with revetements of solid rock, which only required to be levelled; according to the irregularities of the ground, when such occurred, the labour must have been immense. One escarpe in the Valetta district is 130 feet to the bottom of the ditch. There does not appear to be the slightest omission anywhere for magazines, stores, etc., everything being in its

place. The whole has been constructed in such a manner that the most precise and scrupulous engineer would have difficulty to discover faults, or omissions. Every advantage is taken of the undulations of the country, so that a due reciprocal defence can always be given between every point. If Vauban, Cormontaigne, or any other eminent engineer, could put up their heads, they would be more likely to approve than condemn.

The dockyard is another instance, as it shews that they were naval, as well as military engineers. We have given an instance of its efficacy, where a 74 gun ship could be taken in, to undergo such a repair as the *Eagle* did. There are docks, etc., for other ships, which are often used. It is in fact a very great advantage to have such a place so far from home, constructed ready for use at any time, with all means and appliances to boot.

The hospital is of too much interest to be omitted. It is situate just across the granaries, near Fort St. Elmo. It is a large, low building, and covers a great extent of ground; the rooms are large and long, though low; they are not

divided, except by movable screens, which do not prevent a free current of air throughout the whole length. Surgery, and other apartments for attendants, are in the centre of the building, so that any patient requiring assistance can be immediately attended to. Of course the knights must have been good medicos, as well as engineers.

They were good sailors, as they had so much to do on board of ship, especially after going to Malta, A.D. 1530, as Tunis and Gozo formed part of the government of the grand master about that period. The Tunisians gave a great deal of trouble. The knights proved themselves to be good soldiers and sailors, able to work as either.

From the numerous avocations of these knights there cannot be any doubt that there were many men of talent and education among them: and men of the highest rank, from kings downwards, were proud of being members of such a distinguished association as that of the Knights Hospitallers of St. John of Jerusalem.

Though so much has been said in their praise, the knights were not altogether immaculate. There

were numbers of stories in circulation "sixty years ago," not much to their credit, as they said they were rather fond of wine, and were sometimes quarrelsome in their cups, very often fought duels, and the grand master had frequently to show his authority. Mention was made of some young fellows being occasionally rusticated to Sicily, or recommended to return to their friends. They were much given to gamble, yet we may suppose they were not worse than young men of the present time.

There were three or four of the knights who had returned to Malta when things got quiet there under British rule; they were often invited to the Governor's table, balls, etc.

The first time I dined at the palace, I was seated next to one of these old gentlemen. He was dressed in a full suit of black, wore his cross, a well-powdered wig, large buckles at his knees and in his shoes. We were very friendly, considering that I did not speak Italian, nor he English. Yet we contrived to say "Poco vino" frequently, and my worthy old friend got quite

gay when the party broke up. Whenever we met we always shook hands, and he seemed much pleased when I was able to converse with him in Italian.

The hot weather having come on again, I, having been unwell previous to leaving England, was recommended to return, as I could not stand another summer's heat. I accordingly got a passage on board His Majesty's ship *Alceste*, Capt. Sir Murray Maxwell, and after a very pleasant voyage, without any particular occurrence worth notice, arrived safe and sound in old England, and, like Lord Byron, bade—

“ Adieu to the joys of La Valette !
Adieu, sirocco, sun, and sweat !
Adieu, you palace rarely entered !
Adieu, ye houses where I've ventured !
Adieu, ye ladies fraught with graces !
Adieu, red coats and redder faces !
Adieu, ye cursed streets of stairs !—
Whoever mounts them surely swears.”

Lord Byron.

SYNOPTICAL SKETCH
OF THE
ORDER OF ST. JOHN OF JERUSALEM,
FROM ITS COMMENCEMENT
A.D. 1099,
TILL THE
EVACUATION OF MALTA,
A.D. 1798.

CHAPTER I.

So much has been said in the foregoing pages about the Order of St. John, giving some sketches from personal observation, and from tradition, that it is considered a slight sketch of the history, drawn from the most authentic sources, from its first formation in the year of Our Lord, 1099, to the evacuation of Malta, in 1798, cannot be but interesting, as it shows its origin and continuance from that period to the present date.

Twenty years after the conquest of Jerusalem by the Turks, Peter the Hermit visited the Holy Sepulchre, A.D. 1093. After that he commenced to preach the necessity of all Christians to visit

that place. 50,000 Christians attempted the first crusade, under the auspices of Pope Urban II. So popular did it become, that he called a meeting at Placentia, which was attended by 200 bishops. In A.D. 1095 there was another meeting, attended by 13 archbishops, 225 bishops, and 400 other prelates. The Pope preached again at Clermont. He said, "GOD WILLS IT." He ordered all persons to wear a red cross upon their breasts; many had it burnt in their skins. The enthusiasm was very great, and as allusion is made to it elsewhere, we shall say no more on the subject at present, than that there were seven crusades in all, headed by kings and nobles of the highest order, and hundreds of thousands of Christians perished, besides natives of the countries they passed through, as they often had to fight their way.

At the earliest period of the Crusades, some merchants of Amalfi, in those days a wealthy and opulent city, seeing the great distress of the sick and wounded soldiers of the crusaders, formed a hospital for them in Palestine, in the year 1099. Baldwin, first king of Jerusalem, recognised and

confirmed the Hospitaller Brethren as a body of knights, in 1104. In 1118, fourteen years after this, the rule and constitution of the Order were further settled; and in consequence of the number of all ranks who joined, from kings and princes to noblemen, from every part of Christendom, it was divided into eight sections, or *Langues*.*

The magnificent chapteral house of St. John, at Clerkenwell, was founded by Lord John Brisot, in 1101. In 1504 the finishing touch was put to repairs of the magnificent house at Clerkenwell, after being burnt and robbed by the mob during the riots by Wat Tyler, 123 years before. It had been dedicated by Heraclius, Patriarch of Jerusalem, and afterwards acquired commanderies and possessions in every part of England and the British Isles, in general. Persons of all ranks, from the highest peer to the lowest peasant, flocked to enlist under its banner.

The transactions of the Order of St. John,—first, during the era of crusades in the Holy Land, from the date of its organization under

* See first part (page 77), A Table of Rank, &c.

Peter Gerard, in 1099, until its retirement from thence, under De Villiers, to Lymisso, in Cyprus, in 1289, where it was hospitably received by Henry Le Brun, king of that island, and of Jerusalem ; and secondly, from Rhodes under Villaret, the 24th Grand Master, in August, 1310, till its loss under L'Isle Adam, the 43rd Grand Master, in 1527,—is the history of Christendom for 428 years.

Through the munificence of the Emperor Charles the Fifth, who gave them the Island of Malta as a *chef lieu* for the Order, with the dependencies of Tunis and Gozo, the Order became settled there.

L'Isle Adam visited Henry the Eighth, who had formed the design of annexing the commanderies of the Order to the crown, at least, such as were situated in the British dominions.

The Grand Master was received with the highest honours by the King, and obtained the confirmation of all the privileges of the Order within the English dominion, which was indeed the principal object of his journey. After various con-

ferences the King agreed to bestow on the Order the sum of 20,000 crowns.

On the establishment of the Order in Malta, in 1530, as *chef lieu*, the knights gave into the hands of L'Isle Adam, in quality of their chief, all the supreme power; after which he took possession of the sovereignty of the island. Immediately afterwards, a regular and spacious city was founded by the knights on the famous rock, which will ever be the proud monument of their valour, their wisdom, and power.

In the former part, mention was made of the knights as men of superior talents as engineers, and military and naval tacticians; here we have an instance in L'Isle Adam of one possessing the highest powers of diplomacy, for not only did he show them in the present instance, but in several others, which would far exceed our limits to describe.

But towards the close of the career of this talented Grand Master, the Reformation in England led Henry VIII. to seize the possessions of the Order within his dominions, when many

English knights repaired to Malta, where they were received with kindness, and every care was taken to make suitable provision for them in the conventual palace of the Order.

Two centuries afterwards, in 1782, during the Grand Mastership of De Rohan, and only sixteen years before the loss of Malta, the circle of Bavaria was created a new Langue, under the title of the ANGLO-BAVARIAN.

Towards the close of the long and illustrious rule of this Grand Master L'Isle Adam, Queen Mary ascended the throne of England, shortly after which she restored to the Order all the estates and commanderies, which her father had annexed to the crown. Further, by a charter dated at Greenwich on the 2nd April, 1557, she incorporated the bailies, commanders, and knights of St. John in her dominions, by and under the title of the PRIOR AND CO-BRETHREN OF THE HOSPITAL OF ST. JOHN OF JERUSALEM, IN ENGLAND, giving them a corporation, a common seal, and ordaining for the crown, its heirs and successors, that the knights of the Order in England shall, for ever,

have and enjoy their name, style, and dignity, with all the ancient privileges and prerogatives appertaining to them as a chivalrous and hospitalling body. But it never could have been fully acted upon. For though the Order still exists as before this enactment, we do not find any instance in which the estates and commanderies were restored, and certainly the Order does not hold any of them at present.

After the accession of Queen Elizabeth, the Grand Prior of St. John (*Angliâ*), Sir Thomas Tresham, of Rushton, was still for some time summoned to exercise seat and voice in the House of Lords, as Premier Baron of the realm.

During the long interval between the date of the famous siege of Malta in 1665, under La Valette, the 47th Grand Master, when the Langue of England preserved its post on the Mole in the Burgh, assisted by the Langues of Castile and Germany, and its final loss of that island under De Hompesch, the 69th Grand Master, in 1798, the Langue of England has no history separate from that of the sovereign order as subsisting at the *chef lieu*.

In 1682, field-marshal the Duke of Berwick received the grand cross at Malta from the hands of the Grand Master, with the title of Grand Prior of England; and in 1703 the Grand Prior of England went to Rome in quality of ambassador extraordinary.

Throughout the period of 699 years, during which the Order in its eight divisions flourished, prior to the loss of Malta it was presided over by sixty-eight Grand Masters. Its sovereignty was universally acknowledged by the princes of all Christian nations; it enjoyed the consideration and prerogatives annexed to that dignity, in every court. It sent ambassadors throughout all Europe. The Grand Master took rank and precedence before every prince in Christendom, who was not a crowned head. The flags of every country saluted the Maltese vessels, and the galleys had the right of the first salute from all Christian powers.

At so early a period as the first crusade, the three heads of the whole Christian world vied with each other in enriching the fraternity with

lands, hereditaments, privileges, and communities, in all parts of Christendom.

In 1131, ALPOHNSO, King of Aragon, left his whole dominions to be divided between the Knights Hospitallers, the Knights Templars, and the Knights of the Holy Sepulchre. Under Guerin de Montaigu, the 14th Grand Master, who flourished from 1228 to 1230, the Hospitallers possessed in Christendom, 19,000 manors, St. Croix and three other West India islands; under the Grand Master de Villaret the Order conquered Rhodes. By the suppression of the Templar Order, A.D. 1312, 9,000 additional manors devolved upon the Knights of St. John. At other periods the possessions of the Order of the Holy Sepulchre, and of St. Anthony, were added to the Hospitallers, their original object being analogous.

In 1797 Ferdinand Count de Hompesch, descended of an illustrious German family, succeeded De Rohan as 69th Grand Master. Eight years previous to this event, viz., in 1789, France, which had formerly been one of the best supports

of the Order, was obliged, on account of the troubles which took place in that country, at that period when ancient institutions were overthrown, the landmarks of hereditary rights were annihilated, blood deluged the soil, and crime alone flourished, to declare, in 1792, that the Order of St. John was extinct in France. Shortly after, the sanctity of the Maltese territory was violated, and in 1798 the tricolour was allowed to supplant the untarnished standard of the WHITE CROSS, which for more than seven centuries had, under the Knights of St. John, proved the palladium of Christendom.

On the capitulation of Malta, 12th June, 1798, orders were given by the spoliators for all the resident knights—332 in number—to quit the island in three days. The French knights were not allowed to wear the cross of the order, although the Order was not abolished. The Grand Master in vain claimed the property of the other Langues, but it was determined that he should not carry away anything of the smallest value, not even the archives of the Order.

In a short time everything that could not be taken away which in any way related to the Order, was destroyed. Coats of arms, and crosses, or any ornaments over gates, or on buildings, which in any way referred to the respectability of the Order, were obliterated and destroyed. The writer of this has often heard, that, after the knights had departed, the inhabitants of the town suffered from the irregularities of the French soldiers as much as if the town had been taken by storm. General plunder became the order of the day, and all sorts of violence and irregularities reigned for some time.

Robbed of all the valuable treasures and ornaments of this order of chivalry, on the night of the 17th and 18th of June, 1798, the Grand Master, accompanied by a few of the great officers, embarked for Trieste, where they arrived, after a tedious voyage of thirty-nine days ; soon after, the Grand Master, De Hompesch, vacated his office, and retired into the seclusion of private life.

Meanwhile the riches and trophies of the Order seized by the unscrupulous plunderers, did not

long remain their prey, but were nearly all consumed by devouring flames, on the memorable 1st of August, in the famous naval battle of the Nile.

The Order had many favours shown to it by the Emperor Paul, of Russia, who declared himself its protector. Those Knights of St. John who had remained faithful to their duty, nominated him the 70th Grand Master.

This office the Emperor took upon himself on the 29th day of June, 1798. He was inaugurated the same day, and all the knights in St. Petersburg took the usual oaths on the occasion.

After this ceremony, the Grand Master, Paul, created a new Russian priory, made statutes and rules which differed very slightly from those of the Russian Catholic priory; he also granted an annual revenue of 216,000 roubles, annexed to this establishment, comprising ninety-eight commanderies.

On the 1st of January, 1799, the standard of the Order of St. John was hoisted for a permanence on the angle of the bastions of the Admi-

ralty of St. Petersburg, and saluted with thirty-three rounds of artillery.

The uncertain state of politics, for the next seventeen years which elapsed between the seizure of Malta and the general peace, make it difficult to trace minutely the state of the Order. Several foreign persons of distinction elected a chief to uphold the dignity of the Order after the death of the Emperor Paul.

Within this period, and prior to the formal renewal of the Langue, in England, we find the following British subjects had been elected knights of St. John.

Admiral Sir Home Brigs Popham, K.C.B., M.P.; Admiral Sir William Sydney Smith, G.C.B.; the Right Honourable Sir William Johnston Hope, Vice Admiral of the White, G.C.B., M.P., and Privy Councillor; Major Sir Warwick Hele Tonkin, K.L.H., Russian Vice Consul at Teignmouth and Exeter, and Sir James Lawrence, author of a publication, "On the Nobility of the British Gentry." His late Majesty, King George IV., and his brother, King William IV., were also knights of St.

John. Sir Joshua Coles Meredyth, baronet, Knight of St. Louis of France, and of Louis of Hesse Darmstadt, was the last subject of the British crown, upon whom was conferred the Order of St. John during the residence in Malta, by the hands of the 69th Grand Master de Hompesch.

A few years before the seizure of Malta, the revenue of the Order amounted to 3,156,719 French livres.

The Bailies and Commanders forming the EXECUTIVE COUNCIL of the Corporation, have been presided over consecutively by Sir Robert Peat, who died in April, 1837, next by the Grand Prior, Sir Henry Dymoke, 17th hereditary champion of the English crown, who demitted office in June, 1847, on filling the superior office of Turcopolier, vacant by the death of Sir William Hillary, Bart., then by the Hon. Sir Charles Montolieu Lamb, Baronet, Knight-Marshal of the Queen's household, and Baron of St. Hypolite, of the French realm.

CHAPTER II.

HAVING in the previous part said so much of the ancient knights of the Order, it will be shown by the following who were some of the most distinguished men of their time from the earliest date to the present period, and performed services rendering them worthy of being members of the ancient and celebrated Order of St. John of Jerusalem.

LORD JORDAN BRISET, A.D. 1101 ; founded the magnificent Priory, or house of the Hospital of St. John, at Clerkenwell, then a village near London. This palatial building, of which the gate, with part of the crypt of the church, and several

coats of armour carved on the walls of some houses, are still to be seen. The Priory church was consecrated by Heraclius, Patriarch of Jerusalem, in 1185.

KING JOHN resided in the Priory in 1212; State Councils were often held there. Until the accession of Queen Elizabeth, in 1558, it was the *chef lieu* of the Order in the British Islands; at that time the Order possessed fifty-three Commanderies in various parts of England and Wales.

KING HENRY I., of England, founded three houses for the Knights Hospitallers.

KING DAVID I., of Scotland, was the founder of many noble and religious edifices in his kingdom, and established the Sacred Presbytery of St. John at Torphichen, which was the chief seat of the Hospitallers in Scotland, during the twelfth, thirteenth, fourteenth, fifteenth, and sixteenth centuries; in the last year of his reign, 1153, by royal charter, he ratified and confirmed to the Preceptor and his brethren all their possession and privileges. The religious and military orders found great favour with this prince, for an ancient

book of Cupar records that "Sanctus David de præclara Militia Templi Hierosolomitani optimos fratres secum retinens, eos diebus et noctibus morum suorum fecit custodes."

KING MALCOLM IV., of Scotland, who reigned from 1153 to 1165, gave the Knights Hospitallers many donations of land, which by a third charter he incorporated into a barony, free of all courts, customs, tolls, &c.

GILBERT DE CLARE, the renowned "Strongbow," Earl of Pembroke, founded, (cir.) 1174, the Priory of St. John at Kilmainham, near Dublin, which, after the suppression of the Knights Templars in 1313, was the *chef lieu* in Ireland. It is still used as a military hospital and a school for soldiers' children.

KING WILLIAM, *the Lion*, of Scotland, who reigned from 1165 to 1214, enlarged the foundation mentioned above. During the half-century reign of this monarch, Pope Lucius III. preached another crusade against the infidels, and Henry II., of England, gave 42,000 marks of silver, and 500 marks of gold, in aid of the holy cause.

GARNIER DE NAPOLI, Grand Prior of England, when the Langue was visited by the Grand Master, De Molins, accompanied by Heraclius, Patriarch of Jerusalem. He was notable in feats of arms, and was the only chieftain who escaped captivity or death at the carnage by Saladin and his Saracens at Tiberias, in 1187, when the blood of 30,000 Christian soldiers ran in streamlets down the rocks. The same year he was elected Grand Master of the Order, being the eighth who held that supreme dignity. At this time the Knights of St. John possessed about nineteen thousand manors.

WILLIAM, called the "Great Earl," Earl Marshal of England, Earl of Pembroke, &c., founder, (cir.) 1196, of the Commandery of St. John, and St. Bridget, at Wexford, which was the Grand Priory of Ireland, till 1313. He carried the sword before Richard Cœur de Lion, at his coronation.

KING HENRY II., of England, besides extending the possessions of the Order, gave, in 1180, to Garnier de Napolì, the lands and houses of the

canons of Buckland, in Somersetshire, for the endowment of a Priory of Sister Hospitallers for the Order of St. John, where they remained till 1540. This crusader king was also the founder in Ireland of the commandery of St. Congal, near Clontarf.

WILLIAM DE BURGO, son of Adelin, Dapifer to Henry II., whose wife, Juliana, in 1185, gave the whole of the parish of Little Mapplestead, in Essex, including the round Church (the only one in England, except the Temple in London) to the Hospitallers of St. John. To this Commandery there were no less than five hundred and eighty-five grants of land and other property from persons residing in different parts of the country.

RICHARD, Cœur de Lion, King of England, who with Philip of France, led, in 1191, an allied army of 100,000 men to Palestine, comprising the noblest youths of Christendom, whose splendid tents, glittering weapons, and gorgeous cognizances displayed every variety of national and individual peculiarity."* During this Crusade (the

* Vertot's History of the Order.

third) the Knights Hospitallers, whose ranks were augmented by many noble persons from the West, sided with King Richard and Guy le Brun, Count of Lusignan, who ("jure uxoris") was king of Jerusalem.

WILLIAM "LONGSPÉE." The famous Earl of Salisbury, natural son of Henry II., was at the siege of Acre, with his brother, Richard, *Cœur de Lion*.

KING HENRY III., of England. In his reign the seventh Crusade was determined upon, at a council in Westminster, in 1229, when the King allowed a tenth to be raised throughout his dominions, towards the relief of the Holy Sepulchre. On the return of the English crusaders, the Knights Hospitallers, on the 3rd of October, 1247, presented His Majesty with a beautiful crystalline vase, containing a portion of the blood of our Saviour. The Temple Church, first dedicated by the patriarch Heraclius in 1185, was re-dedicated in 1240 (at which time the building was finished), in presence of King Henry III., and many of the nobility, who afterwards partook

of a sumptuous repast at the expense of the Hospitallers.

WILLIAM LE BRUN, Lord of Valence in France, and Earl of Pembroke. He was half-brother of King Henry III., and was sprung from the Le Bruns, Lords and Counts of Poictou, La Marche, Angouleme, Couçi, and Lusignan,—of which latter branch the Le Bruns were, for three centuries and a half, Kings of Jerusalem, Cyprus, and Armenia.

THEODORE, Grand Prior of England. The forces in Palestine of the Latin Christians having been greatly reduced, the Grand Master Le Compte, in 1237, ordered large succours from the West; among others there went from the Grand Priory of Clerkenwell, headed by their prior, and with the banner of St. John unfurled, 300 knights, and a considerable body of armed stipendiaries. Theodore and his chivalry, together with Prince Richard (created Earl of Cornwall, afterwards elected King of the Romans and Almaine), Simon de Montfort, Earl of Leicester, and William Longspée, son of the Earl of Salisbury, set sail from

Dover, and crossing France, viâ Marseilles, proceeded to Jaffa, where the Sultan of Egypt offered terms of peace, which were accepted, the greater part of the Holy Land being given up to the Christians.

KING ALEXANDER III., of Scotland. In 1206 he granted a charter to the Knights of St. John in Scotland, confirming all former rights, privileges, and exemptions, especially the payment of tithes. During this king's reign the Order was under the vigorous rule of HUGH DE REVEL, the 19th Grand Master.

PRINCE EDWARD PLANTAGENET (afterwards King Edward I). In 1271 he assumed the cross, along with Louis IX. of France, in a new crusade,—the last.—In this enterprise he had united with him his brother, Edmund Crouchback, Earl of Lancaster, the kings of Sicily, Naples, Aragon, and Portugal, together with many English and Scottish knights.

ALEXANDER DE WELLES. This preceptor was probably one of the ancient family of the Welles, Lord of Welles, in Lincolnshire. He was slain

in the battle of Falkirk, 22nd July, 1298. At this period the military orders retired to Cyprus, where they were kindly received by King Henry (Le Brun) II.

RODULPH DE LINDESAY, Great Preceptor of Scotland, after the death of DE WELLES, ruled the Order from the period of the battle of Falkirk, 1298, until after the battle of Bannockburn, when King Robert Bruce firmly established his throne. During this interval, by a Canon of the Council of Vienna, and a Bull of Pope Clement VII., the whole lands and priories of the Templars in Scotland were bestowed on the Knights of St. John.

WILLIAM DE TOTHALE. "Prior Sac. Domus Hosp. sti Johnnes de Jerusalem Angliæ, 1301," was summoned to their Parliaments as first baron of the realm, in the reigns of Edward I. and King Edward II. In his grand priorate, Rhodes was conquered on the 5th August, 1310, by FULK DE VILLARET, 24th Grand Master, and the Templar Order was suppressed in 1313, when their immense estates in every province of England, Scotland, and Wales, were bestowed on the

Knights of St. John. The number of Knights Templars imprisoned in the British Isles at the time of their persecution was about 250. Throughout Christendom they numbered about 15,000.

KING EDWARD II. of England. By order of Council, 12th February, 1307, suppressed the Order of Templars in his dominions; and by letters patent, 17 Edward II., the whole of their houses, churches, manors, lands, rents, or other possessions whatever in England, Ireland, and Wales, were transferred to the Knights Hospitallers.

SIR GILES DE ARGENTINE; an illustrious Hospitaller, and one of the most redoubted champions of the cross in the latter day of Christian dominion in the Holy Land. He fought and fell at Bannockburn, 1314, having first rescued the English monarch, Edward II., from the perils of that great fight.

ROBERT DE BRUCE, King of Scotland. During the persecution of the Templars, which extended from October, 1307, till May, 1312, this illustrious

king was doing battle for the crown and liberty of the Scottish nation. By a Canon of the Council of Vienna, and a Bull of Pope Clement VII., the members of the Templar fraternity were permitted to enter the Order of the Hospital, which was enriched by their vast possessions throughout Christendom. Two years later, 1314, the crowning victory at Bannockburn placed Bruce firmly on the throne of Scotland; and for the many and great services both these Orders had rendered King Robert, he conferred many tokens of his royal favour upon them.

PHILIP DE THAME, Grand Prior of England, temp. Edward III. In 1346, the Temple buildings were leased to the predecessors of the honourable law societies of the middle and inner Temple.

SIR JOHN PAVELEY, Grand Prior of England in 1361. During his priorate, De Pins and Beranger were Grand Masters. Under the latter, the navy of the Order, and that of Peter le Brun, King of Cyprus, sailed in an expedition against Egypt, and took Alexandria.

SIR ROBERT HALES, Grand Prior of England. Under his priorate the English Hospitallers sustained a very severe loss by the destruction, in 1381, of their chief priory of Clerkenwell, by fire, during the insurrection of Wat Tyler. "This building, its widely varied decorations, both externally and internally, is said to have contained specimens of the arts, both of Europe and Asia, together with a collection of books and rarities, the loss of which, in a less turbulent age, would have been a theme for national lamentation."

The priory burned for eight days, and the prior's residence at Highbury was also destroyed. The Grand Prior himself also lost his life, and in the patent of King James II. to his descendant, Sir Edward Hales, creating him Earl of Tenderden, special mention is made of "Robert Hales," who, on account of prudent advice given to King Richard II., had, by a popular sedition of the mob, his head struck off.

SIR ROBERT BETYL, Grand Prior of England; of whom notices occur in 1446 and 1452. During this time the city of Constantinople was taken by

the Sultan, Mahomed II., after which he equipped a mighty fleet, for the purpose of laying waste the whole principality of Rhodes. Troubles also broke out in Cyprus, where the Order had a valuable commandery.

SIR ROBERT LONG, Turcopolier in 1496, served under the Grand Master, Zacosta, who honoured him with the style of *Excellentissimus*, in consideration of his piety, his charity, and his capacity for government.

SIR WILLIAM KNOLLS, Grand Preceptor of Scotland, was ordained at Rhodes, 1463, by the Grand Master, Zacosta, and filled this office for fifty years. He was Lord Treasurer of Scotland, and King James IV. raised him to the peerage dignity of Lord St. John, which title devolved upon each of his successors in office, till the Reformation. He was slain at Flodden, 1513.

SIR JOHN LANGSTROTHER, Grand Prior of England, was bearer of a letter from the Grand Master de Lastic, to King Henry VI. He sided with the House of Lancaster during "the quarrels of the White and Red Rose," and being taken

prisoner at Tewkesbury, 1471, was put to death in cold blood by order of King Edward IV.

SIR JOHN KENDALL, Turcopolier in the year 1477, and Grand Prior of England in 1490. Under the Grand Master d'Aubusson, was called "The Buckler of Christendom." The Sultan Mahomed attacked Rhodes in 1480, with a fleet of 160 vessels, and land forces exceeding 80,000 men, but after a siege of 89 days, he was repulsed, 9,000 Turks being slain, and 15,000 wounded. This glorious defence was commemorated by building three churches at Rhodes. Under this great chief, the Order of St. John had incorporated with it the two minor Orders of the Holy Sepulchre and St. Anthony.

KING HENRY VII., of England, in 1502, was elected "PROTECTOR OF THE KNIGHTS OF RHODES," in consequence of his writing a letter to the Pope, in answer to a brief sent from Rome, in which the Pontiff earnestly besought him to engage in war against the Turks. In this letter King Henry declares, that "He will be as redie to the defence of the Christen faithe as any Prince cristened,

and in this behalf neither to spare goods, riches, or men ; nor yet his own proper person yf it be nede."

SIR THOMAS DOWCRA, Grand Prior of England from 1504 to 1528, put the finishing touches to the grand priory of Clerkenwell, which had been burnt down in 1381, and which successive priors, during the space of 223 years, had rebuilt with more than its primal grandeur. Camden, speaking of it as it existed at the beginning of the sixteenth century, says,—“ This house had a beautiful church with a tower, carried up to such a height as to be a singular ornament to the city.” At a chapter held there on the 11th January, 1514, a lease was granted to Cardinal Wolsey, of the manor of Hampton, for the site of the palace which he erected there. In 1521, Dowcra was a candidate for the office of Grand Master. He possessed considerable abilities, great experience in diplomacy, and moreover had a princely revenue to recommend him ; but by the great preponderance of the French influence, the election of l'Isle Adam was secured. He survived the loss of Rhodes five years.

SIR ROBERT DANIEL, Turcopolier in the year 1506, received from the French king the sword which St. Louis had worn in the Crusades.

SIR JOHN BUCK, Grand Cross and Turcopolier, one of the adjutant-generals at the famous siege of Rhodes by the Sultan Solyman. He was killed 17th September, 1522, at the head of the English knights, in an attack which Mustapha made against the English bastion, with five battalions. The Turks were repulsed with a loss of 3,000 slain. This brave knight died in defence of the *chef lieu* of the Order.

SIR NICHOLAS HUSSEY, at the siege of Rhodes by the Sultan Solyman, in 1522, was one of the most redoubted knights selected by the Grand Master, l'Isle Adam, to defend the bastion of England. The terrible armament of Solyman, consisting of 400 sail, with 140,000 soldiers, and 600,000 serfs, invested Rhodes 26th June, 1522. The capitulation took place, after a heroic defence of six months, on the 17th December, 1522.

SIR WALTER LINDSAY, third Lord St. Johns, and principal Preceptor of Scotland. He was a knight of great reputation, and was Justice Gene-

ral of Scotland in the reign of James V. He died in 1538.

SIR ROGER BOYDEL, Turcopolier in 1533. The year following, 21st August, 1534, expired P'Isle Adam, the most illustrious Grand Master the Order ever possessed.

SIR WILLIAM WESTON, Grand Prior of England temp. Henry VIII. By an act passed 1533, it was made lawful for "Viscounts, the Prior St. John's Jerusalem, and Barons, to wear on their doublettes, or sleeveless coats, clothe of gold, silver, or tynsel." The Order, comprising the chivalry of England, having sided with the Pope in discountenancing the divorcement of Queen Catherine, a bloody persecution was commenced against the knights in 1534, which continued until April, 1540, when an act passed the Legislature, vesting in the crown all their possessions, castles, manors, churches, houses, &c. On Ascension Day, in the latter year, the Lord Prior died of grief, and was buried in the chancel of St. James' Church, Clerkenwell, where an altar tomb, in the architectural style of the age, representing him as

an emaciated figure lying upon a winding-sheet, was erected over his remains. Pensions out of the revenue of the house at Clerkenwell were granted to the Lord Prior and other knights to the amount of £2,870 per annum. The site and precincts of the priory were granted to Lord Lisle for his services as high admiral. Henry VIII. died in 1547, and shortly afterwards the church of St. John, with its magnificent spire, was blown up, and the materials employed by Lord Protector Somerset in building Somerset House. Sir William Weston was not the first of his name who wore with distinction the white cross of the Hospitallers; his uncles, Sir John and Sir William Weston, were both distinguished members of the Order. The former held successively the offices of General of the Galleys, Turcopolier, and Grand Prior of England, attaining the latter dignity in 1482; whilst the latter was likewise a knight of Rhodes, of European reputation. They were all knights of note, and did brave and loyal service in court and field, deriving their descent from the ancient and knightly family of Weston,

seated at Weston-under-Lyzard, in Staffordshire, prior to the reign of Henry II. Robert Weston of Weeford; son of John Weston (descended from the same old stock) and Cecilia Nevill, sister of Ralph Earl of Westmoreland; was contemporary of Sir William Weston, the last Lord Prior. He died Lord Chancellor of Ireland, 1573. Lt.-Colonel Gould Weston, now a knight of Justice in the Order, is a direct lineal descendant of the above.

SIR DAVID GONSON, Lieutenant Turcopolier at Malta, 1533, was one of the 101 knights who lived about the middle of the sixteenth century.*

SIR RICHARD BELL was one of the knights who left their country at the time of the persecution, and sought asylum at the *chef lieu* in Malta, 1534.

The Commander, INGLEY, was one of the knights who perished on the scaffold, during the persecution of Henry VIII. SIR MARMADUKE BOWES was another who also suffered.

SIR ADRIAN FORTESCUE, received 1532. This brave knight also suffered death, was enrolled among the saints, and his portrait, with a sprig of

* See "Notes and Queries," No. 200, Aug. 27, 1853.

palm in his hand, as an emblem of martyrdom, is now to be seen in one of the chapels of St. John's church, in Malta.

SIR NICHOLAS UPTON, one of the bravest knights of the Order, and Turcopolier, headed a band of thirty of his brethren and four hundred native volunteers, when the Turkish fleet attacked Valetta in 1551, and died in consequence of the wounds which he received in the action.

KING PHILIP, of Spain, and King Consort of England. By a Royal Charter, dated 2nd April, 1557, his Majesty and QUEEN MARY restored the Order of St. John in England, and constituted the Grand Prior and his brother knights a corporation with a common seal and a perpetual succession.

The Baillie CARVALLO, Grand Prior of Ireland, named as the fifteenth member of the Sovereign Council (then numbering thirty members in all) resident in Malta, when the revolution in 1798 took place.

The general review of Chevaliers and Commanders, then at the *Chef Lieu*, presented 332, of whom 282 were capable of bearing arms. They

consisted of 200 French knights, 90 Italians, 25 Spaniards, 8 Portuguese, 4 Germans, and 5 Anglo-Bavarians.

The Honourable SIR JOSHUA COLES MEREDYTH, Eighth Baronet of Greenhill, county of Kildare, Ireland, formerly Captain 89th Foot, Knight of St. Louis of France and of Louis of Hesse Darmstadt, was admitted at Malta by the 69th Grand Master, FERDINAND DE HOMPESCH. At his death 27th July, 1850, Sir Joshua possessed an ancient ring worn by Grand Masters on days of ceremony; it had on an oval plate the figure of a human skeleton, K.C.J.J. (*Angliæ*), Sept. 9th, 1837. Lieut. Prior of England, June 24th, 1841.

ADMIRAL SIR SIDNEY SMITH, G.C.B., D.C.L., F.R.S., after the siege of Acre, had, in admiration of his bravery, presented to him the original badge worn by Richard Cœur de Lion at the Crusades.

SIR ROBERT PEAT, D.D., Knight Grand Cross of St. Stanislaus of Poland, Vicar of New Brentford, and Chaplain to King George IV., admitted K.J.J., elected Grand Prior of England, January 29th, 1831.

CHAPTER III.

HAVING so far given a sketch of the progress of the order of St. John from its earliest foundation to the period of the evacuation of Malta, it is proposed to bring it to a conclusion ; at the same time it is necessary to state that the Order is still in full operation, and that, under the auspices of near two hundred noblemen and gentlemen, the Langue of England still holds its place and exercises the duty of Hospitallers in many instances, by relieving convalescents in divers places in England. It also took a most prominent part in the formation of the "National Society for Sick and Wounded in War."

In the *Bulletin International*, published October, 1869, the following report appeared—

GREAT BRITAIN.

“FORMATION OF A PROVISIONAL COMMITTEE IN LONDON.—A piece of good news is that the ‘Société de Secours’ has formed a Provisional Committee in England, the country of Miss Nightingale, and the only one of the great European powers which has not, as yet, formed an entire link in the chain of associations organised for the relief of wounded soldiers. The initiative was taken by Messrs. Charles John Burgess, Captain and Adjutant of Volunteers, and John Furley, Captain of Volunteers in Kent, who, having first consulted the International Committee, joined to themselves a Provisional Committee. Their names are as follows :—Sir John St. George, G.C.B., Major General Royal Artillery; Sir Edmund A. H. Lechmere, Bart.; the Right Honourable Lord Eliott; the Rev. W. Bentinck-Hawkins, M.A.; the Rev. Thomas Hugo, M.A.; W. Julius Alexander Pearson, LL.D.

“The first positive sounds of war were heard in

July, 1870, immediately upon which (15th and 18th July) Captain Burgess, Hon. Sec. to the Preliminary Committee of Help for the Sick and Wounded in War, addressed letters to the *Times*, inviting a meeting, which was accordingly held in Willis's Rooms, 4th August, 1870. His Grace the Duke of Manchester, Grand Prior of the Order, presided, and the Committee of the Society which had so fortunately been founded by the Order, speedily emerged into a powerful organization, with H.R.H. the Prince of Wales for its president, and Colonel Lloyd-Lindsay, V.C., as Chairman of Committee. Mr. Furley at once proceeded to the seat of war, Captain Burgess undertook the post of Secretary of the Society, and many other members of the Order assumed active and laborious duties in furtherance of its humane objects. It has now been decided that the Society shall be continued as a permanent national institution, retaining such organization in time of peace as may insure its efficiency in case of war.

"It must, however, be stated here, that early in

1869 the Chapter of the Order of St. John in England began a movement towards the formation of an Aid Society, and that Captain Burgess and Mr. Furley were unremitting in their exertions to call attention to the subject. These gentlemen, also, represented the Order of St. John, which had been invited to send delegates to the Berlin Conference for the purpose of forwarding the work."

Numerous instances might be quoted of the activity of the German branch of the Order, during the war in Denmark, in 1864, and that against Austria, in 1866; but as the principal motive for writing these sketches is to illustrate, if possible, only the Anglican branch of the Order, mention should not have been made of the other, except to show that the noble Order is still extant in other countries, and that it has never been extinct, or abolished, since its first formation in Palestine.

His Grace the Duke of Manchester is now Grand Prior of the Anglican Branch, or Langue, of the Order. Sir Edmund Lechmere, Bart., is the Grand Secretary.

The COUNCIL consists of the Capitular Bailiffs, the Executive Officers, the Chaplain General, and the following elected members—Sir John St. George, K.C.B., Sir E. G. L. Perrot, Bart., Sir Edward Hoare, Bart., Charles Pemberton Carter, John Furley, Lieut.-Colonel Gould Weston, Sir Brook Kay, Bart.

The objects and purposes of the Order are—

“The encouragement and promotion of all works of charity and humanity, in the relief of sickness, distress, suffering, and danger.

“Aiding the restoration of health to sick poor, without distinction of creed, by providing convalescent out-patients of public hospitals and dispensaries with diets prescribed by medical officers, and visiting them in their houses during the period of sickness.

“The foundation and maintenance of cottage hospitals and convalescent homes, training establishments for nurses to attend the sick poor.

“The promotion of a more intimate acquaint-

ance with the wants of the poor in time of sickness, and the supplying of such information as may usefully aid the proper authorities in the prosecution of measures for the improvement of the localities and houses they inhabit.

“The further and continuous support of the National Society for aid to the sick and wounded in War. (The establishment of which in England was first initiated and mainly supported by the Order.)

“The award of silver and bronze medals for special services on land in the cause of humanity, especially for saving life from fire, or in mining or colliery accidents.”

The motto of the Order is—

PRO UTILITATE HOMINUM.

CHAPTER IV.

THE original desire of the founders of the Order of St. John was to form a society for charitable purposes, which was commenced by the worthy merchants of Amalfi, trading in Palestine. They founded the Order of St. John, which has never become extinct since the year 1099, when it was first established as a Conventual Society, to provide for the sick and wounded during the time of the Crusades, and has been carried on to the present date, as we find members of it engaged in aiding the unfortunate sick and wounded even up to the latest period of warfare, and the "Society for assisting the Sick and Wounded in time of War"

was in full force in France, even within the last year or two, and that the name of the first man in our country stood at the head of the list, supported by many persons of the highest rank and station. This movement took place at the instigation of our Order, and was carried out with the best results.

It is most desirable that the Order should be increased as much as possible, so that the benefits which are desirable to be spread over the country in every direction should be extended to the utmost.

In order to do this as far as possible, the increase of members is a primary object, and this can only be done by giving more publicity to the Order of St. John, and inducing gentlemen to enrol themselves under the ancient banner. That is the principal thing aimed at in the publication of this work, that, from its almost puerile form, persons may be led to read, and get some idea of the history of the ancient knights, without going too far into old-fashioned history, but get information sufficient to induce them to study more deeply and

investigate the matter more fully—and then they may be induced to enrol themselves in the Order and become meritorious members, by giving more attention to the subject than has hitherto been done, and performing the duties of good and true knights-hospitallers, establishing institutions in their neighbourhood—let them be ever so small at the beginning, they may increase. We can refer to the progress of the work in the commandery of Hanley Castle in Worcestershire, St. John's House at Ashford, in Kent, and the daily assistance given to poor discharged persons from the Hospitals in London, in the shape of nourishing food to convalescents ; also the relief given to the sick in the village of Coalville, between Burton and Leicester, where the people were attacked with virulent typhoid fever, which produced such a panic that the inhabitants refused to enter any of the infected houses, or nurse, or render assistance to the sufferers. A committee of tradesmen, to whom all honour is due, telegraphed to the superior of St. John's house in Norfolk Street, requesting nurses to be sent to their assistance.

Two were sent immediately, and very soon after the Superior herself followed, and by regular food and nursing the cases were quickly reduced.*

There are many objects worthy of charitable notice in the Potteries of Staffordshire, and all other manufacturing places, especially in the first, which, from the nature of the business, is peculiarly injurious to health, so that many persons are obliged to give up working who have large families to support; and though some of the masters are liberal, and they have also a club, besides parish allowance, yet altogether that is but small, and occasionally a club stops payment entirely for want of funds, or has to reduce the sums till they get into work again, and more funds accumulate. Often their children get sick, or worse still, the mother of a large family, and then who is to take care of the young ones?

* Though the House of St. John in Norfolk Street does not belong to the Order, yet on this occasion they received assistance from the Commandery at Hanley, in Worcestershire.

It is in such cases as these that the charity of the Order is wanted, some person who would go round and make it his chief business to visit the sick. Though there is no scarcity of charitable persons who do this, yet they cannot give up their time altogether ; now if there was some sort of an establishment where persons could devote the whole of their time to such a purpose, much good could be done.

But how is it to be done ? Why, in the first place, increase the numbers of the Order, and get those who are already members to think more of it, and exert themselves. Many of them imagine that they are doing a charitable action by subscribing a certain sum on admission to the Order, besides their annual fee, but then they think no more about it, and when they go into the country they look more after grouse and partridges, than after sick and convalescents. Yet bring any immediate case of distress before them, down goes the cash, and no questions asked.

But English gentlemen will be English gen-

lemen still; long may they continue so—yet they have their peculiarities.

“The good old English gentleman,
One of the olden style.”

The great object, therefore, is to increase the ranks of the Order by getting more members to join, and this can only be effected by making it better known. Why do not the knights wear their Order, and show more of the insignia on their seals and coats of arms? This would induce people to ask what they mean, and on having it explained, many would wish to join. The decoration of the Order ought also to be worn at evening parties; it is a pretty ornament, and even if a plain uniform was adopted it would be of service.

Suppose only a plain fashionable black coat, with a button showing the cross of the Order; a white waistcoat, with a similar button, and this dress never to be worn, unless the cross, etc., is worn with it; this would prevent *parties* from

wearing it who are not entitled, for though they might not mind the expense of the button, the cross costs something.

But there is a certain morbid feeling amongst Englishmen, that it is very hard to get them to wear any decoration or uniform if they can help it. Yet in their hearts they are proud of such decoration. Officers in the army or navy will seldom wear their orders off duty, though they have been obtained under the most trying circumstances—

“Of moving incidents by flood or field,
And hairbreadth scapes i’ the imminent deadly breach—”

where their lives and limbs have been hazarded without a shadow of fear, all for the honour of their Queen and country.

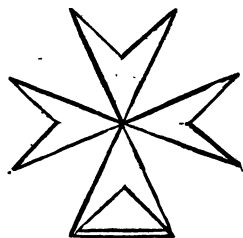
Many young men seeing others dressed with an Order, at an evening party, would like to have one also, and though they might not care about it in the first instance, yet in due time they would, and help much to forward the charitable views of the Order; and as ladies are eligible as

"Dames Chevalières," why should not they appear with their decorations as such?

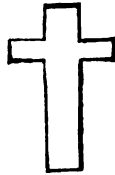
At the same time, the good old regulations for admission should on no account be remitted, and no person whatever, not having the real "sangre azul,"* or who had not the stipulated number of grandfathers and grandmothers, could possibly be admitted under any circumstances, for in these times, when the "toe of the peasant comes so near the kibe of the courtier," it is difficult to have a little bit of true aristocracy kept together.†

* Blue blood, a Spanish term denoting ancient families.

† This last chapter was not among those laid before the Chief Secretary and Registrar, as it was not written till after they had returned the MS.—C. S.



CROSS OF AN ESQUIRE.



CRUSADES.

ALLUSION having so often been made to the Wars of the Crusades, and as they were the principal cause of the formation of the Order of St. John, and others, besides the great expenditure of men and money, as well as the general interest that was taken in it by all classes of society throughout the whole of Europe, it is considered that a slight sketch of their history may be acceptable to our readers.*

About twenty years after the conquest of Jerusalem by the Turks (A.D. 1095—1099), the Holy Sepulchre was visited by a hermit of the name of

* See "History of the Crusades," by Edward Gibbon, the Historian.

PETER, a native of Amiens. His resentment and sympathy were excited by the injuries and oppression of the Christian name ; he mingled his tears with those of the Patriarch, who exposed the vices and wickedness of the successors of Constantine. The hermit, rising up, exclaimed,—“ I will rouse the martial nations in your cause ;” and Europe was obedient to the call of the hermit. The Patriarch dismissed him with epistles of credit and complaint, and no sooner did he land at Bari than Peter hastened to kiss the feet of the Roman Pontiff.

His stature was small, his appearance contemptible ; but his eye was kind and lively, and he possessed that vehemence of speech, which seldom fails to impart the persuasion of the soul. He was born of good family, and his military service was under the neighbouring counts of Boulogne, the heroes of the first crusades. He soon relinquished the sword and the world, and if it be true that his wife, however noble, *was aged and ugly*, he might withdraw without reluctance from her bed to a convent, and at length to a hermit-

age. In this austere solitude, his body was emaciated, his fancy was inflamed ; whatever he wished, he believed ; whatever he believed, he saw in dreams and revelations. From Jerusalem the pilgrim returned an accomplished fanatic ; but he excelled in the popular madness of the times. Pope Urban the Second received him as a prophet, applauded his holy design, and gave him every encouragement to proclaim the deliverance of the Holy Land.

Invigorated by the approbation of the Pontiff, this zealous missionary traversed, with speed and success, the provinces of Italy and France. His diet was abstemious, his prayers long and fervent, the alms which he received with one hand, he distributed with the other ; his head was bare, his feet naked, his meagre body was wrapped in a coarse garment ; he bore and displayed a weighty crucifix, and the ass on which he rode was sanctified in the public eye by the service of the man of God. He preached to innumerable crowds in the churches, the streets, and the highways. The hermit entered with equal confidence the palace

and the cottage ; and the people—for all were the people—were impetuously moved by his call to repentance and arms.

The magnanimous spirit of Gregory VII. had already embraced the design of arming Europe against Asia ; from either side of the Alps, 50,000 Catholics had enlisted under the banner of St. Peter ; and his successor reveals *his* intention of marching at their head against the impious sectaries of Mahomet.

So popular was the cause of Urban, so weighty was his influence, that the council he held (A.D. 1095) at Placentia was composed of 200 bishops of Italy, France, Burgundy, Swabia, and Bavaria ; 4,000 clergy, and 30,000 of the laity.

At Clermont, in the territories of the Count of Auvergne (in November, 1095), the council was not less numerous or respectable than the synod at Placentia. It consisted of 13 archbishops, and 225 bishops. The mitred prelates were computed at 400, besides many of the most enlightened men of the age.

The Pope ascended a lofty scaffold ; his topics

were obvious, his exhortation vehement, his success inevitable. Thousands of his hearers, with one voice, and in their rustic idiom, exclaimed aloud,—“GOD WILL IT,—GOD WILL IT.” “*It is indeed the word of God,*” replied the Pope, “and let this word be adopted as your cry of battle, to animate the devotion and courage of the champions of Christ. His cross, as a symbol of salvation ; wear it, a red, bloody cross, as an external mark on your breast and shoulders, a pledge of your sacred and irrevocable engagement.”

Early in the spring of 1096, above 60,000 of the populace of France and Lorraine, of both sexes, flocked round the first missionary of the Crusade, and pressed him to lead them to the Holy Sepulchre. Their wants and numbers soon compelled them to separate, and his lieutenant, *Walter the Penniless*, a valiant though needy soldier, conducted a vanguard of pilgrims, whose condition may be determined from the proportion of eight horsemen to 50,000 foot. His example and footsteps were closely pursued by another fanatic, the monk Godescal, with from 15,000 to

20,000 peasants, from the villages of Germany. This rear was again pressed by a herd of 200,000, the most stupid and savage refuse of the people, who mingled with their devotion a brutal license of rapine and drunkenness.

Of the first Crusaders, 300,000 had already perished, before their graver and more noble brethren had completed the preparations for their enterprise.

It would far exceed our limits, and be, in fact, altogether irrelevant to our subject, if any further mention was made of the Crusades, of which the seven lasted from A.D. 1095, till the two last, sixth and seventh, in A.D. 1248 and 1254, completed their business, the Holy Land was evacuated, and the remnant of the Order, under De Villiers, the Grand Master, was received at Limisso, in Cyprus, in 1289, by Henry le Brun, king of that island and Jerusalem.

This subject has been alluded to previously in rather a superficial manner, but it is thought that a little further notice of it might not be unacceptable, as it would show how far the charitable in-

tentions of the merchants of Amalfi were praiseworthy, and how much they must have been required by the unfortunate sufferers, hundreds of thousands of whom must have perished in the greatest misery and distress, far beyond anything we can now imagine, or form the most distant idea of. Notice will only be made of a few very interesting and remarkable circumstances, in which the Order was most specially engaged.

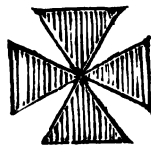
In the year 1187, the battle of Tiberias was fought, when, through the treachery and cowardice of Lusignan, attacked by Saladin, the Christians were betrayed into a camp destitute of water; at the very first onset the Christians were overthrown with the loss of 30,000 men; the wood of the True Cross,—a dire misfortune!—was left in the power of the infidels. The trembling Lusignan was sent to Damascus, and the victory was stained by the execution of 230 Knights of the Hospital; and of the two Grand Masters of the military orders, one was slain and the other captured.

About the year 1261, the city of Antioch was finally occupied and ruined by Bondochdar, Sultan

of Egypt and Syria ; the first seat of the Christian name was dispeopled by the slaughter of 17,000, and the capture of 100,000 inhabitants.

The maritime towns of Laodicea, Gahala, Tripoli, Byretus, Sidon, Tyre, and Jaffa, and the stronger castles of the Hospitallers and Templars, successively fell ; and the whole existence of the Franks was confined to the city and colony of St. John of Acre—sometimes more classically described as Ptolemais.

After a siege of thirty-three days, the city was stormed, and death and slavery was the lot of 60,000 Christians. The convent, or rather fortress of the Templars, resisted three days longer ; but the Grand Master was pierced by an arrow, and of 500 knights, only ten were left alive. The King of Jerusalem, the Patriarch, and the Grand Master of the Hospital, effected their retreat to the shore ; the sea was rough, the vessels insufficient ; a great many of the fugitives were drowned before they could reach Cyprus. And a solitary silence prevailed along the coast, which had so long resounded with the WORLD'S DEBATE.



KNIGHTS TEMPLAR,
OR
KNIGHTS OF THE TEMPLE OF JERUSALEM,
A.D. 1119.

As allusion has been made in the foregoing sketch of the Knights of St. John to the Knights Templar, who were coeval with them, and often fought together in the good cause which they had undertaken to defend, it is considered that a few remarks concerning them may not be misplaced, so the following is introduced in the hope of making the statement more correct and interesting.

In the year 1119, nine pious and valiant knights, some of whom had been companions of Godefroi de Bouillon, formed themselves into an

association to protect and defend pilgrims on their visits to the Holy Land.

The two chiefs were Hugo de Payence and Godefroi de St. Amour, who vowed, in honour of the "Sweet Mother of God," to unite monkhood and knighthood. They also took the vows of poverty, chastity, and obedience, and to combat without ceasing against the heathen, in defence of pilgrims to the Holy Land, binding themselves to follow the rule of St. Augustine.

The king assigned to them for their abode, a part of the palace close by where the temple of the Lord had stood, and hence they took the name of Templars, or soldiers of the Temple.

For the first nine years the Templars lived in the greatest poverty and humility; their clothing was bestowed on them by charity, and they were so poor that Hugo de Payence and Godefroi de St. Amour had but one horse between them. The seal of the Order, at a future period, represented two knights upon one horse, in order to commemorate the original poverty of the founders.

During the reign of Baldwin II., the kingdom being hard pressed by the Turks of Damascus, and the king himself being a prisoner, he sought many means of strengthening his kingdom, and so resolved to gain the Templars to his side, and Hugo de Payence and five others came to Europe to lay the state of the Holy Land before the Pope.

By direction of Pope Honorius, they were ordered to adopt a white mantle, and Pope Eugenius, some time after, added a red cross on the breast, as an emblem of martyrdom.

Their banner was the black and white stripe called in old French "*Beau Séant*," which words became their war-cry, and bore the pious inscription: "*Non nobis Domine, non nobis, sed nomine tuo da gloriam.*"

Many knights assumed the habit and travelled with Hugo de Payence, through France and England, in order to excite the Christians to war.

Gifts in abundance flowed in to the Order. Large possessions were bestowed upon it in all countries in the West, and Hugo de Payence, now

Grand Master, returned to the Holy Land to take the field, at the head of 300 Knights Templar, of the noblest families in Europe.

By a Bull granted by Pope Alexander III., in 1162, the Order of Knights Templar acquired great importance, and acknowledged no authority but that of the Supreme Pontiff.

The Order of Templars consisted of three classes, to which may be added those who were attached to the Order, as "*Affiliates, donates, et oblates.*"

Each province had a Grand Prior, who represented the Grand Master; each house had its Prior, who commanded the knights in war, and presided over its chapter in time of peace. In England the Grand Prior sat in Parliament as a peer of the realm.

The revenue of the Templars was immense. In England alone the annual income—about the year 1185—was not less than six millions. (See Dugdale.)

This enormous wealth, together with the luxury and other evils engendered by it, provoked the

hatred of the secular clergy and laity, and paved the way to the spoliation of the Order.

When Acre fell in 1292, the Templars having lost all their possessions, many of the members in the Holy Land retired, with other Christians, to Cyprus. Having seen the folly of trying to recover the Holy Land, they became indifferent about it; few members joined them from Europe, and they meditated moving the *chef lieu* of the Order to France.

The Hospitallers, or Knights of St. John of Jerusalem, continuing the war against the infidels, attacked and conquered Rhodes.

While the Templars were falling under the reproach of being luxurious, their rivals were rising in consideration, and there was an active and inveterate enemy only too ready to take advantage of their ill repute.

In the celebrated controversy between Philip the Fair and Pope Boniface, the Templars took part with the Holy See. Philip, having a design upon their immense wealth, spared no means to work their ruin, and obtained a Bull from Pope

Clement V., a creature of his own, to exterminate the Order, and make over their possessions to the Knights of St. John of Jerusalem, and in 1306 the Pope ordered a meeting of the Bishops of Portugal, to be held at Salamanca, to investigate the conduct of the Templars, and sequestered the property to Denis, King of Portugal.

After the death of Clement V., John XXI. consented to the reintegration of the Templars, and restitution of the property, on condition that, instead of the name they had formerly borne, they should adopt that of "Knights of Christ."

This took place in 1317. But previous to this, many of the Templars had suffered the most cruel and ignominious deaths. From October, 1307, to May, 1312, through the machinations of Philip, many expired on the rack, while others perished by the rigour of their imprisonment, or by their own hands.

On the 12th May, 1310, fifty-four Templars who had confessed, but afterwards recanted, were by his order committed to the flames in Paris, as relapsed heretics. Their Grand Master de Molay

still survived, but at last, with four others, was executed in the most barbarous and inhuman manner.

It appears this Grand Master was an uneducated man. That a certain paper was handed to him to sign, but being unable to read it himself, a lawyer read it to him, omitting many parts, and retaining others ; as in what he read, the Grand Master found nothing objectionable, he signed at once. When the trial came on, the whole paper was read, when it appeared that he had confessed and signed to many acts which he had never committed, proving him to be guilty of all sorts of crimes, heresy, murder, and many others of the most serious nature, all deserving death, by his own apparent confession. When he was made fully aware of his case, he went up to a fire which was burning in the hall, and thrust his right hand into it, saying, "He did it as a punishment for signing such a false statement." This, however, had no effect upon his barbarous judges, who ordered him to be placed on an iron grating, over a slow fire, where he lingered for many hours in the greatest torment, without making the least complaint or sign of suffering.

The habit of the Order was a white woollen mantle, reaching to the knee in front, and tapering away to the ancle behind, fastened with cords and tassels, which differed according to the rank ; tight white pantaloons ; buff boots, with gilt spurs and red leathers ; white woollen cap ; sword cross-hilted, with gauntlets and badge, suspended from the neck. There was some slight difference in the dress and decorations to distinguish the rank of the wearers. Every knight who held a diploma from the Grand Master, was entitled to wear above the mantle the badge of his grade, suspended from a rosary of seventy-two oval red beads, separated by nine white ones, of a larger size, with the letters I.H.S. enamelled in black.

The Grand Master alone wore the collar of steel, in form of a chain of eighty-one links, from which was suspended the Red Cross of the Order, having engraved on the back, "Ferro, non auro muniment."

Ring of Profession.—Every knight ought to wear a gold ring on the forefinger of his right hand, on which the red cross of the Order is enamelled on a white ground.

On one side of the cross were engraved the letters P.D, on the other F.P ; on the opposite side of the ring V.D.S.A,* separated if wished, by a stone on which may be engraved in Latin, the name of the knight, and the arms of the bearer, according to his grade, and the words "Eques templi, prof. consecr. creat," and the date of its admission.

The half dress costume of each grade consisting of mantle, sword, belt, and badge.

* P.D.E.P, "Pro deo et patria ; V.D.S.A, "Vive Dieu Saint Amour."



THE END.

BILLING, PRINTER, GUILDFORD.

